

Labour puts Stalker case to experts

Attack on Executive 'manipulation of law'

By Richard Ford and Philip Webster

The Labour Party last night launched an investigation into what it called the Government's "general manipulation of the law" in a widening of its attack over the Stalker affair.

The move was announced by Mr Roy Hattersley after the Government ruled out prosecuting Mr John Stalker under the Official Secrets Act for revealing details of M15 and Royal Ulster Constabulary surveillance operations in Northern Ireland.

Mr Hattersley, the Shadow Home Secretary, said that the party was convening a committee of constitutional and legal experts to look at the way the Royal Prerogative was

being misused by the Government.

The inquiry will take place over the next three weeks in a Labour policy committee chaired by Mr Hattersley and his Shadow Cabinet colleague, Miss Jo Richardson. It

A planned meeting at the EEC summit in Brussels between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Prime Minister, failed to materialise because of other pressures. The two leaders met today. Diplomats said Mrs Thatcher would face some "hard questions" from Mr Haughey about the Stalker affair.

Parliament will put aside its review work while the investigation goes ahead.

In another move, Labour is to exploit the Government's discomfort over the Stalker-Sampson inquiry by staging a Commons debate in its own time if ministers refuse to grant one.

Mr Hattersley said last night: "The idea that the Royal Prerogative can be used by the Executive to place the Executive above the law is profoundly authoritarian and anti-democratic."

He declined to name the experts who would serve on the committee. "It is simply not enough to protest. This authoritarian government will not respond to our protests. We have to have a calculated and concerted scheme to make sure that no government can act in this way."

Mrs Margaret Thatcher, he said, was under growing pressure from heads of government over the Stalker case and there was evidence that this was now developing in the United States.

Ministers yesterday also rejected Labour demands for a full judicial inquiry into allegations that the RUC operated a "shoot to kill" policy during 1982 in which five unarmed terrorists and a nationalist youth were killed.

As Mrs Thatcher prepared for a meeting in Brussels with Mr Charles Haughey, the Irish Republic's Prime Minister, the Attorney General made the announcement that Mr Stalker would not be prosecuted over his book, entitled *Stalker*.

In a Commons written reply, Sir Patrick Mayhew said: "I have concluded that a prosecution would not be in conformity with the Code for

Crown Prosecutors issued pursuant to the Prosecution of Offences Act 1985."

The code lays down guidelines to assist prosecutors in deciding whether or not to bring proceedings and includes criteria such as the sufficiency of evidence and public interest.

A spokesman for the Crown Prosecution Service refused to say under what criteria the decision had been taken but it is clear that officials would have taken into account the public interest as occurred in the decision not to prosecute RUC officers against whom the Stalker-Sampson inquiry found evidence to conspire or pervert the course of justice.

The decision is certain to be criticized by Opposition MPs who contrasted it with the Government's action in the *Spycatcher* affair. Mr Neil Kinnock has said that a failure to prosecute Mr Stalker would be a "stake through the heart" of the Official Secrets Act.

But the Government could still bring civil action in the courts against Mr Stalker.

Mr Hattersley, the deputy Labour leader, yesterday demanded a full judicial inquiry into the allegations of a "shoot to kill" policy because of growing concern in the country and among Britain's allies.

Mr John Wakeham, leader of the House, who was deputizing for the Prime Minister at Question Time, turned down his request.

He told MPs: "The matter has been the subject of a very thorough and detailed investigation. A further inquiry would be a waste of time and money."

Mr Hattersley said the Government's answer damaged the prospects for lasting peace in Northern Ireland. "How can the Government hope to establish the rule of law in Northern Ireland if it manipulates the law itself?"

Next week it is expected that Mr Tom King, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, will tell the Commons that changes will be made in the management and control of the RUC as a result of a report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.

Mr Stalker heard of the Government's decision to prosecute him as he returned to Manchester yesterday to sign copies of his autobiography at a bookshop.

"I believe this book is a fair account when read in its entirety and I hope that this is now the beginning of the healing process in the Anglo-Irish Agreement."

Eight more 'insider' inquiries on the way

By Cliff Feltham and Lawrence Lever

The Government is poised to launch a fresh wave of investigations into insider dealing. It is expected to involve more prominent figures in the City.

Eight more suspected cases of insider dealing are being examined by Department of Trade and Industry officials, and inspectors could be appointed any day. The City is braced for further shocks as the Government, armed with tough new legal powers, attempts to stamp out illegal share dealing.

A DTI investigation into alleged insider dealings in Peachey Property shares which named property tycoon Mr John Ritblat, head of the British Land company, was

announced this week. Mr Ritblat has strenuously denied any illegal dealings and is furious at the way the DTI announced the investigation. In addition to the eight cases which are under consideration, the Department has appointed inspectors to look into 14 alleged cases of insider dealing. However, only five have been made public.

These involve the passing of confidential information concerning Monopolies and Mergers inquiries; Unigroup, a timber and clothing business; Grand Central Investments Holdings, a food company; and Shield Group, a residential property developer, and the current inquiry into Peachey shares. Extradition change, page 21

Thatcher prepared for tough EEC farm battle



Mrs Thatcher making an intense study of papers at the EEC Brussels summit yesterday.

Subsidy reform hopes remain 'in the balance'

From Richard Owen, Brussels

Britain remained deeply divided from France and West Germany last night over farm subsidies at the EEC special summit here on the European cash crisis, and diplomats admitted that the outcome today was "very much in the balance".

But at least the first glimmerings of a deal on part of a Community budget reform package began to emerge as the UK and Spain moved towards a compromise on the contentious issue of regional and social aid for the poorer southern nations.

Diplomats said that M Chirac, the French Prime Minister, was taking a hard line over agriculture, partly because Bonn could not do so as Chancellor Helmut Kohl was in the chair, and partly to impress French voters in April's presidential election. "Chirac is electioneering," one official charged.

Chancellor Kohl said there was a "real chance for a positive outcome". But officials said that the reform package would stand or fall as a whole. Mrs Thatcher said that the negotiations, which follow failure to agree on measures at Brussels last June and Copenhagen in December, were proving "very, very difficult".

Diplomats said after a meeting between the Prime Minister and her Spanish counterpart, Señor Felipe González, that there was enough "common ground" for Mrs Thatcher to go to Madrid later this year.

Relations between the countries improved towards the end of last year after a diplomatic compromise was

reached over the status of Gibraltar. Airport allowing an EEC deal on cheaper air fares to go ahead. Officials said the Anglo-Spanish relationship could prove crucial to the current Summit.

Sources said Señor González had softened his previous demand for a doubling by 1992 of the "structural funds" which channel EEC aid to backward regions and depressed areas. He agreed with Mrs Thatcher that if Britain and other northern nations contributed more to regional aid, Spain would back the British demand for rigorous and binding cuts in farm spending.

EEC Commission sources said that a possible solution involved an overall increase in the structural funds of between 60 and 70 per cent by 1992, with a doubling of resources concentrated on the very poorest regions. Almost all of Spain and Portugal would qualify for a doubling of aid. Mr Andreas Papanastasiou, the Greek Prime Minister, echoed Señor González in calling for "flexibility".

But there was still no agreement yesterday over the future level of farm spending, which Britain insists must be pegged at £19 billion a year, excluding the cost of disposing of existing food mountains. A move by the southern countries to support Britain would ease the difficulty, but France and West Germany are still arguing for a higher figure.

Chancellor Kohl appealed to his fellow leaders to bear in mind that Europe was heading for an internal market without frontiers by 1992, and said

Continued on page 20, col 7

Campaign for flexible pay in the public sector

By Robin Oakley, Political Editor

The Government has embarked upon a drive to introduce greater flexibility to public sector pay, especially the rates paid by local government.

Alarmed at the inflationary consequences of nationally negotiated pay deals, which have already forced the Chancellor to raise interest rates, ministers are trying to encourage the settlement of more pay deals on a regional and local basis.

However, trade union leaders see the drive as the next wave in the Government's bid to reduce the power of unions, much of which rests on their role in securing national deals.

Ministers believe the private sector has responded effectively to regional variations in demand and in living costs, but say unions have prevented the same development in the public sector.

They are pushing for more pay settlements to be done at local level as a means of breaking up the rigidity of nationally negotiated wage

agreements. But as part of the deal, ministers are prepared to encourage higher payments for those with special skills or those working in areas where

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staff are difficult to attract and retain.

In the private sector, they are trying to encourage more profit-related pay schemes, and in the public sector they are seeking to introduce more financial management initiatives and performance-related structures.

Extra rewards for computer personnel, lawyers and accountants in the Civil Service are likely.

The new drive is reflected in the Government's evidence to the House of Commons. While it argued for cost-of-living increases of no more than 3 per cent, the Government called for special payments for intensive care and theatre nurses, plus considerable regional differentials.

Difficulty in attracting staff to London and the Home Counties, with high housing costs, has also led ministers to consider introducing salary differentials for teachers. In particular, they are worried that the implementation of the new national core curriculum may be handicapped if more teachers in mathematics, science and languages cannot be enticed to some areas. The teaching unions, however, are seeking across-the-board increases.

The Government is particularly alarmed at the national pay deals covering local government workers, but has no powers to intervene in the voluntary arrangements between local authority associations and unions.

Ministers believe the measures they are introducing to force councils to seek outside tenders for various aspects of their work, such as refuse collection, street cleaning and vehicle maintenance, will create sufficient pressure to break down the rigidity of nationally-determined pay levels.

Poll shows Dole cuts Bush lead

By Our Foreign Staff

Vice-President George Bush has lost his formerly strong lead over other Republican contestants in the New Hampshire Primary election. A poll published yesterday showed him only two points ahead of Senator Robert Dole.

Only a week ago, Mr Bush enjoyed a 20-point lead. While Senator Dole, who beat him into third place in Iowa this week, has gone on the offensive on issues ranging from the Strategic Defence Initiative to Nicaragua, the Vice-President is still bogged down by the Iran-Contra affair.

In one campaign interview, Mr Bush admitted that he had not disclosed everything he knew.

He said that he was not going to do so as he believed his talks with President Reagan should remain confidential.

Bush rattled, page 7

Car telephone taps legal, judge says

By Tony Dawe

Calls made on car and portable telephones, most of which are used by businessmen, can be legally "tapped", it emerged during a court case yesterday.

Mr Michael Anderson, a security consultant, was jailed at Luton Crown Court for intercepting ordinary telephone calls made in connection with City takeovers.

But in the course of his summing up, Judge David Rodwell said that the tapping of car telephones did not appear to be covered by an Act of Parliament.

His ruling surprised the Home Office, which said: "It was thought that the interception of Communications Act, under which it is an offence to intentionally intercept a call by a public telecommunications system, covered car phones. But this is the first time it has been tested in law

and we will need to study the judgment carefully."

The court heard that British Telecom's Cellnet division, one of the two operators of cellular radio networks, was so worried by the risk of bugging that it had called in Mr Anderson to investigate the availability of rogue monitoring equipment. This investigation was not connected to the charge dealt with yesterday.

Cellnet and its rival, Vodaphone, have more than 150,000 subscribers, the highest total in any European country.

An engineer with WaveTech Ltd of east London said: "If you know what cell the caller is in and which channel their cell uses, it is not difficult with the right equipment to track his calls as each channel has only 30 different frequencies."

Court hearing, page 3

Memories evoke horror of Waldheim war zone

From Robert Fisk, Belgrade

Mrs Mika Knezevic represents the other side of the Waldheim story. The two have never set eyes on each other — not so far as Mrs Knezevic knows — but like the Austrian President she can not remember everything that happened in 1942.

In her case, however, it is neither convenience nor the passage of time that has produced forgetfulness; in her nightmares, she still screams about fire and holds herself curled up in fear in her grandfather's arms. She is frightened of trains. For Mrs Knezevic is one of the children of Kozara.

Almost everyone in Yugoslavia knows about the children of Kozara even though many of the survivors do not know who they really are.

Deported from their mountain homes by the Nazis, they died in their hundreds in the railway cattle wagons between Stara Gradiska and Zagreb, many so hungry that they ate the cardboard tags around their necks that carried their names and ages; they simply consumed their entire family history, swallowed their own identities before their train steamed into Zagreb station in July 1942.

Mrs Knezevic was among the survivors, although she only discovered this eight years ago when she was already married in Belgrade with a grown-up son. Yet her personal sense of suffering and loss makes her choke on her words even today when she tells the story of her identities and when she considers — as she has done

often these past few days — what she thinks of Dr Waldheim.

Mrs Knezevic is a bright, round woman with bleached blonde hair that helps to hide her 48 years; she was just two years old in July 1942 when the Germans and their Croatian Ustasha allies arrived in her little Serbian orthodox village of Bosanska Dubica on the side of the Kozara mountains. Dr Waldheim was then acting as an intelligence officer nine miles down the road in Kostanjice and it was his German army group which supervised deportation from the area of 23,000 children, at least 11,000 of whom were to be murdered or to die of starvation.

What she now knows — but still does not remember — is that the Germans and the Ustasha ordered all

the Serbian villagers to leave their homes, killing anyone who could not walk quickly. Mrs Knezevic's grandmother was executed — she had her throat cut in front of her family — for this reason. Again, Mrs Knezevic has no memory of this, just a recurring nightmare about burning houses. Mika Burdalo, as she then was, left the village with her mother, three sisters and baby brother. Her father was sent to Zemun concentration camp where he died a year later. Her grandfather was shot in the face by an Ustasha guard for daring to seek permission to find food for the children. And at a transit camp at Ceroljani, two-year-old Mika, her three sisters and brother were taken from their mother and loaded onto lorries.

Continued on Page 20, col 4

Physicist is found stabbed to death

By David Sapsted

One of Britain's leading nuclear physicists, Dr Colin Fisher, was found stabbed to death at the home of a female colleague near the United Kingdom Atomic Research Centre at Harwell, Oxfordshire, yesterday.

Thames Valley detectives believe Dr Fisher, aged 51, who was internationally renowned for his work on nuclear "bubble chambers", had a long-standing relationship with a fellow scientist, divorcee Mrs Georgina Stuart, at whose home in High Street, Harwell, his body was found in a pool of blood.

Mrs Stuart, aged 50, was under arrest at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford,

last night although no charges had been made. Thames Valley police said. Detectives were waiting to interview her once she recovers from a suspected drugs overdose. Her condition was not serious.

Dr Fisher, who was married with a son and lived in the village of Farnham about 12 miles from Harwell, worked at Rutherford Laboratories in Chilton, near Didcot, for more than 20 years.

Rutherford director, Dr Paul Williams, described his colleague as "most respected" and added that he had had a distinguished career in nuclear research. "Dr Fisher was a

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THE TIMES

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Companies entitled to spy on industrial rivals, says judge

By Andrew Moger and Joe Joseph

Companies are entitled to engage in industrial espionage such as undercover surveillance work and electronic eavesdropping, a judge said yesterday.

They had a legitimate right to protect their commercial interests so long as their agents did not resort to tapping telephone lines, he said.

Judge Rodwell, QC, was speaking at the end of an unusual trial in which the court heard how Dixons, the electrical retailer, hired a private detective to spy on former employees who had moved to a rival company, Comet.

The jury at the Luton Crown Court case, believed to be Britain's first prosecution for telephone bugging as a form of industrial espionage, was told that Dixons authorised dossiers to be produced on the private lives of a handful of former senior staff.

The Dixons' action came three months after the company failed in a bid to take over Comet, a subsidiary of Woolworth.

Dixons, the court heard, feared the former executives may have been behind leaks of sensitive commercial data and suspected they may have still associated with their former colleagues.

Judge Rodwell, jailing Michael Anderson, a former policeman and owner of a private detective agency for unlawful interception of telephone communications, said: "The inquiries on which you were instructed were legitimate and proper and no criticism can be made of them (Anderson's customers)."

The court heard that Anderson, of Etington, Warwickshire, who was given a 12-month sentence — nine months suspended — employed two electronics experts to train microphones on the home of Mr Peter Hopper, a former senior buying director, who had left Dixons for a similar position with Comet.

One device, an 18in-wide dish, was intended to pick up conversations within his home at Woburn, Bedfordshire, by converting the vibrations of windows.

Judge Rodwell said these could be regarded as quite proper inquiries, but when the two men connected a wire to Mr Hopper's telephone line and intercepted his calls, Anderson's spying operation overstepped the mark.

The judge said there was no evidence to suggest whether the original telephone tapping scheme had come from Anderson or Dixons.

Last night Woolworth executives expressed reservations about the judge's comments.

One top manager asked:

Mr Peter Hopper, who was in Cologne, West Germany, when the trial ended, said he was appalled at learning that his telephone had been tapped.

The device used to listen into Mr Hopper's calls was made by the standards of industrial espionage.

Companies wanting to eavesdrop on their rivals without risk of detection are well catered for, electronic surveillance experts say.

Mr Hopper's calls were intercepted using a tape recorder that switched itself on whenever the phone was used. Such devices cost about £45, and have been around for 15 years, according to Mr Derek Pattinson of Crofton electronics in Lyonsdale, Hereford and Worcester, which deals in industrial security.

Devices costing from a few pence to £50 can be fixed permanently into a telephone line. They can be detected only by using the most sophisticated checks, Mr Pattinson said. Radio bugs powered by the current in telephone lines can monitor conversations indefinitely.

"The case still has a number of unanswered questions: for instance, did Dixons know, presume, or condone Anderson's telephone tapping?"

The case, under the 1986 Interception of Communications Act, had cast light on the shadowy world of commercial spying and showed how far companies

were prepared to resort to clandestine methods to safeguard confidential data which could affect high street prices and Stock Exchange values.

Mr Hopper told the two-week trial: "I discussed on my phone... prices, the state of the market and the company's business needs."

The two men hired by Anderson told the jury they had been paid £100 every time they changed the tape in a tape recorder which had been placed in a biscuit tin outside Mr Hopper's home and connected to the telephone cables.

Inquiries by *The Times* last night revealed that Dixons paid out tens of thousands of pounds to Mr Anderson's Cornhill Management Consultants firm, based in Stratford upon Avon, over two years.

After Dixons' failed bid for Comet he was approached by the head of Dixons security, Mr Neville Causebrook, who said up to five senior staff had left the firm for the Woolworth subsidiary.

Anderson told the court: "Dixons had a major problem in September 1986. There was a leak of very, very confidential information. Attempts were made to trace the leakages."

In an attempt to find the source, Anderson said his agents spied on the new Comet directors as they stayed in first-class hotels in Hull and then in a company house in the City.

The two men Anderson hired were Mr Terry Rowe of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Mr Terence Franklin Rowe, of Basildon, Essex. The unnamed men both admitted the charge of conspiracy to intercept telephone calls. They are to be sentenced this morning.

The case moved from high technology to drama half way through the evidence when Anderson was arrested outside the court for possessing a shotgun which he had placed in the boot of his car.

Anderson later explained to the judge that he feared for his own safety and the security of his family.

Monroe blouse tops £7,000



Miss Kay Kent models the Monroe blouse as Miss Kerry Taylor starts the bidding (Photograph: Deniz McNeelance).

By Sarah Jane Checkland
Art Market Correspondent

A blouse which barely covered Marilyn Monroe when she starred in the 1956 film, *Bus Stop*, became the focus of a promotion exercise at Sotheby's yesterday.

Mr Patrick Mills, bidding by telephone from Hemel Hempstead, spent £7,150 on the lace garment as part of a scheme to launch the career of his singing and dancing daughter, Chantelle, aged 16.

Sotheby's rose to the occasion during the sale, employing a blonde bombshell lookalike to model the blouse, who posed and posed up and down the aisle as bidding progressed.

A lacey nightshirt which was reputed to have been owned by Charles I fetched £4,180 (estimate £4,000 to



Made to measure: The blouse as it appeared in *Bus Stop*.

£6,000) for Spink, the dealers. It is reputed to have been left behind by the king at Rushbrooke Hall, Suffolk, which was owned at that time by Sir Thomas Jernyn, treasurer to the king's household.

The top price of £34,100 at the toy and costume sale was paid anonymously for Britannia House, an extraordinary English wooden dolls' house, made in 1866, of Robert Adam proportions, with tiny

Chippendale chairs and modern conveniences such as full electrical wiring.

The house, described in the catalogue as an "exhibition of design in miniature", was devised by several well-known British designers to raise funds for the African Medical and Research Foundation.

A pair of monogrammed velvet slippers once worn by Cecil Beaton sold for £160 (estimate £150 to £250).

Museums were particularly active. The Northampton Museum spent £6,600 (estimate £3,000 to £4,000) on a kid leather slap-sled shoe, of about 1630. The Australian National Gallery bought a Balenciaga black sheath evening gown from the 1950s for £1,155. The Victoria and Albert Museum spent £572 on a Jean Dessès Brown evening gown.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator Third win for same family

Mr John Lowry, aged 61, of Grove Road, Cranleigh, Surrey, celebrated his family's third Portfolio success yesterday after winning £4,000 in the Portfolio Gold competition.

Mr Lowry, who recently retired after teaching geography at Cranleigh School, said his secret was perseverance.

He has already won £2,000 from a previous competition, and his wife, Margaret, also won £400 two years ago.

"I've been playing Portfolio religiously since it started. I guess I'm just lucky", he said.

Mr Lowry has four children, and the family pool their cards.

He added: "I will distribute the gains to my children. I have one grandson who is 18 months' old and as soon as he can read, I'll have him playing too."



Mr John Lowry: success through perseverance.

Trial halted

The trial at the Central Criminal Court of John Duffy, who is accused of two murders and seven rapes, was yesterday adjourned until Monday after a juror fell ill.

Sex claims are denied by vicar

A vicar accused of seducing two schoolgirl virgins and fondling a third yesterday denied that he had sexual intercourse with a girl aged 13 on a holiday island beach.

The Rev David St Clair Tudor, aged 32, told Guildford Crown Court that the girl, who claimed that later he had intercourse with her more than 100 times, was jealous of his girl friend.

He said he went to Majorca, where she was holidaying with her family, after he had gone to Paris and found it was snowing.

Earlier the court heard that he had been allowed to continue as a school chaplain for five years after admitting to the headmistress and the chairman of the governors that he had had a relationship with a pupil aged 15.

The authorities at St Bede's, Carlton Hill, Redhill, Surrey, took no action for fear of having to perform virginity tests on the girl, the court was told.

Mrs Joan Peagan, the teacher who reported Mr Tudor to the school after the girl complained of petting sessions during Bible classes, told the court the girl was very distressed.

Mr Tudor told the court that nothing sexual happened when the girl went to the vicarage in Reigate, Surrey, for Bible lessons. But he admitted he had let her become too dependent on him when she became worried about family problems. "She was upset and crying so I comforted her. I kissed her — only in the way I would kiss other people, on the cheek", he said.

The case continues.

Early retirement woman loses case

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Companies and firms who forced women to retire at 60 but allowed men to retire at 65 before the law made this illegal do not have to pay compensation, the House of Lords ruled yesterday.

In a unanimous judgement which affects dozens of similar claims being processed, five law lords held that Mrs Peggy Duke had no claim of unlawful discrimination because her company, Reliance Systems, now part of GEC, retired her at 60.

Mrs Duke, whose case was supported by the Equal Opportunities Commission, had claimed that she was the victim of sex discrimination and was entitled to damages.

The Government has since been forced to change the law, making it illegal to have different retirement ages based on sex; that now applies

in the public and private sectors.

But when Mrs Duke initially lodged her claim, the change in the law relating to the private sector — contained in the Sex Discrimination Act 1986 — was not in force. She claimed damages on the basis of being obliged to retire earlier than she wished.

Mr Alan Lakin, the Equal Opportunities Commission legal adviser, said after the ruling: "We are very sorry for Mrs Duke and scores of other women who have now come to the end of the road with their claims."

Mrs Duke relied for her claim on the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

She said that although the Act did not apply to "provision in relation to death or retirement", that only meant retirement benefits and not retirement ages.

Detective tells of PC's death in off-duty chase

By Mark Ellis

A police detective chased the killer of an off-duty policeman on the fatally wounded man's motor-cycle, the Central Criminal Court was told yesterday.

Sergeant Derek Wilson said he tried to flag down a motor-cyclist as he chased a suspected burglar in London, but the rider, later identified as Police Constable Stephen Tibble, aged 21, ignored the request and joined the chase.

PC Tibble stopped at Charleville Road, west London, Sgt Wilson said. "I

continued running towards the motor-cyclist, who assumed a crouching position as if to catch hold of the guy running towards him. I heard shots ring out and saw the man run off."

He chased the gunman, using PC Tibble's motor-cycle, but later lost sight of him.

William Quinn, aged 40, from San Francisco, denies murdering PC Tibble on February 26, 1975. Mr Quinn was extradited from the United States last year.

The trial continues today.

'Stupidity led to fire deaths'

By Rodney Cowtan, Transport Correspondent

The official inquiry into the King's Cross disaster was thrown into confusion yesterday when a ticket collector said that 85 per cent of those who died in the fire did so through their own stupidity.

Mr John Wood, employed by London Underground, said: "I would say that 85 per cent of the people who died that night did so through their own stupidity. If they had done what the police and firemen and other members of staff had asked them to do, there would have been very few [deaths]."

Mr Roger Henderson, QC,

counsel to the inquiry, immediately terminated his questioning. "I hear what you say, but it does not accord with the facts and in the circumstances I am not minded to ask you any more questions", he said.

Mr Henderson later said that in the absence of corroboration, Mr Wood's evidence should not be accepted. Mr Desmond Fennell, QC, chairman of the inquiry, indicated his agreement.

Mr Charles Pugh, QC, representing relatives of the 31 who died, and also those who were injured, said Mr Wood's

observation concerning 85 per cent of the victims was at variance with all other evidence and was viewed by those instructing him as "beneath contempt".

Mr Wood, who is still recovering from injuries received in the fire, said he put belts across the Piccadilly line escalators to prevent passengers using them, but many still tried to use that route. "I wish you had been there that night", he said. "I was pushed on my backside three times."

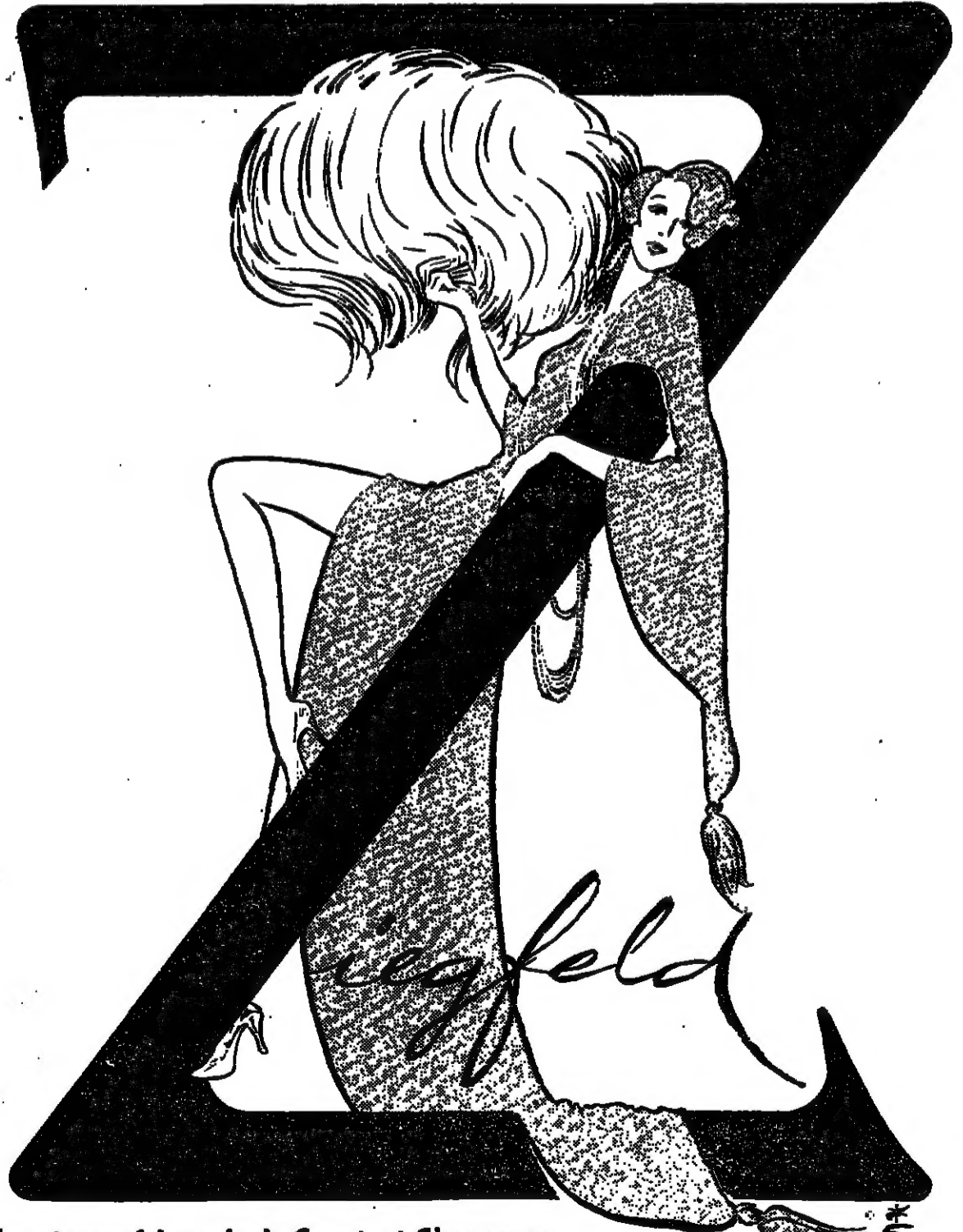
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AND ALL USUAL AGENTS

Ministers refusing to answer case for inquiry, says MP

There was a case to be answered over the Stalker-Sampson inquiry in Northern Ireland and the Government had chosen not to answer it, Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Opposition, said during question time.

He accused the Government of damaging Britain's reputation abroad and undermining the rule of law by its failure to prosecute officers of the Royal Ulster Constabulary for their part in a criminal conspiracy over an alleged shoot-to-kill policy in the province.

Mr Hattersley said that there was growing concern in this country and among Britain's allies over the Government's deplorable decision not to follow the Stalker-Sampson report with appropriate prosecutions.

Mr Hattersley said that the reply would damage both Britain's reputation abroad and the prospects for lasting peace in Northern Ireland.

N IRELAND

in Northern Ireland if it manipulates the law itself?

Mr Wakeham said that Mr Hattersley's remarks were disgraceful.

Mr Hattersley: He either deludes himself or seeks to deceive others - (Conservative protests).

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) ordered Mr Hattersley to withdraw the remark.

Mr Hattersley: I withdraw that at once. He either deceives himself or seeks to deceive others (laughter).

The Attorney General (Sir Patrick Mayhew) made the position absolutely clear: that there was a case to answer, but he chose not to answer it, Mr Wakeham must defend that, not some other charge.

Mr Wakeham said that the Attorney General had made a very clear statement and indicated the reasons why, in the national interest, he had made the decision he did.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Tom King) would make a statement to the Commons - (Labour MPs: When?) - on disciplinary matters and matters of control of the RUC and Mr Hattersley would have to wait for that.

Sir John Begg-Darison (Epping Forest, C) asked whether the Prime Minister, when talking to the Taoiseach in Brussels, would tell him that the British people were only prepared to

accept the interventions of the Irish Republic in the internal affairs of the UK to the extent that he was prepared to accept British interference in the affairs of the Irish Republic.

Mr Wakeham said that he was not privy to what the Prime Minister would be saying to the Taoiseach, but he knew that she would be seeking to deal with this in the best way possible and to recognize that the Anglo-Irish accord was something that they believed to be important.

Mr Seamus Mallon (Newry and Armagh, SDLP) said that, since 1969, 166 people had been killed by the security services in Northern Ireland - people who were not members of paramilitary organizations and not involved in any violence. In those 166 cases, three convictions were obtained.

What assurance could Mr Wakeham offer the House and what plans did he have to ensure that the law would apply in Northern Ireland without fear or favour and equally to every single person?

Mr Wakeham said that he could not confirm those figures, but they might well be right. In attempting to deal with these difficult issues in Northern Ireland, some mention of the victims of terrorism would be appropriate.

Mr Martin Flannery (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab) said that there was a growing sense of the refusal of the Attorney General to engage in prosecutions after the killing of these unarmed people, especially the young man in the hay barn.

If there was not a general inquiry under the Tribunals of Inquiry Act, 1921, this would grow and grow, not go away, and it would sour relations with the republic.

Mr Wakeham said that the decision not to prosecute had been made by the Director of Public Prosecutions, not by the Attorney General.

Poverty study inaccurate

A study which had suggested that the rich were becoming richer and the poor poorer under the present Chancellor's regime was based on inaccurate data, and the Policy Studies Institute will be told so, Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said.

He added that real reasonable disposable income had risen by 13 per cent since 1983.

Mr Thomas Clarke (Monklands West, Lab) had said that the Policy Studies Institute had produced figures suggesting

that, under Mr Lawson, the rich had become richer and the poor poorer.

He called for a strategy against poverty, beginning with the ending of the notorious Social Fund, which the Government was determined to introduce in April.

Mr Lawson said that the PSI study had been based on inaccurate data, and the Treasury was writing to the Institute to tell it so.

"The vast majority of the

people of this country have seen a substantial increase in their living standards since this Government took office."

Mr John Redwood (Wokingham, C) said that figures showed that policies that promoted enterprise and competition delivered the goods.

Mr Norman Lamont, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said that such points had been made in representations he had received.

But encouragement for forestry is thought to be important to the rural economy, and such a policy has been pursued by governments for many years.

Mr Douglas Henderson (Newcastle upon Tyne North, Lab) said the tax regime on trees had not, in fact, led to any significant increase in planting.

"It has provided a tax haven for pop stars and film stars, and the taxpayer has been ripped off."

Tax relief scheme attacked

There had been widespread criticism of tax relief for tree-planting, and there were rumours that the Prime of Wales would make a speech critical of the relief in the House of Lords, Mr Andrew Lloyd (Dumfriesshire, Lab) said during Commons questions.

He said that criticism came from bodies such as the Nature Conservancy Council and the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

Many would argue that Britain should not continue to destroy the country's environment by indiscriminate tree-planting. The minister should consider giving tax relief, instead, for hedgerow-planting.

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"It has provided a tax haven for pop stars and film stars, and the taxpayer has been ripped off."

Dependence on benefit 'must not be first step'

The Government was quite determined that youths did not see dependence on state benefits as the natural first step after leaving school, Lord Skelmersdale, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said.

He was speaking during the resumed committee stage in the Lords of the Social Security Bill.

There had been protests from the Opposition benches about clause 4 of the Bill, which would deny cash benefits to school leavers who did not take a job, go on to further education or accept a place on the Youth Training Scheme.

The clause was approved by 135 votes to 88 - Government majority, 47.

Lord Bess (L), moving opposition to the clause standing part of the Bill, said that it would make the Youth Training Scheme compulsory instead of voluntary. Not only was that going further than the Conservative manifesto, it was contrary to the wishes of the CBI, the National Union of Students, the British Youth Council and Youth Aid.

The original aim of the Government had been to remove the eligibility to benefit from those under 18 who deliberately chose to remain un-

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employed, particularly those who did not enter the Youth Training Scheme.

There was no evidence that this was a sizeable group, research having shown that 91.1 per cent of school leavers would prefer to work rather than be on benefit. The clause was a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

Lady Jeger (Lab) said that the clause went far beyond the

6 To impose this clause is to use a sledgehammer to crack a nut

Government's originally stated intention because it would affect young people who might not deliberately have refused employment.

There could be youngsters living in a remote area where a Youth Training Scheme was not available, or they might take a job on leaving school but lose it before they were 18. There could be all sorts of reasons for unemployment.

The clause also turned natural justice on its head. Instead of

saying these young people were innocent until proved guilty of not taking a job, they were said to be guilty until they proved their innocence. That was totally opposite to the tradition of British justice.

Lord Boyd-Carpenter (C) said that it was true that only a few youngsters would be affected, but most legislation was designed to deal with the problems of quite small minorities. The whole of criminal law dealt with a very limited number of people who sought to commit crimes.

The fact that only a few would be affected was argument for passing the clause rather than deleting it.

Lord Pitt of Hampstead (Lab) said that the clause failed to take account of the degree to which 16 and 17 year olds became estranged from their parents and the homelessness which resulted. The Government should give the point further consideration.

Lady Phillips (Lab) said that as a young actress she had a part in *Love on the Dole*. It was the poignant story about young people from an ordinary family leaving home so that they could each collect benefit and not be a burden on their parents. The clause was a direct invitation to the young to do just that.

Tories blamed for lack of trust

The Government had brought public confidence in the security services into disrepute by identifying itself and the Conservative Party interest with the national and public interest, Mr Malcolm Bruce (Gordon, L) said during Prime Minister's question time.

He referred to the Court of Appeal decision on Wednesday, when the Government's claim for a permanent ban on publication in the British media of material from *Spycatcher* by Mr Peter Wright was rejected. The Government is appealing to the House of Lords.

Onslaught on CAP

In no circumstances should the Government agree to extra funding for the EEC while Europe was spending £23 billion a week on dumping and destroying food and £50 million a week on financing crops, Mr Teddy Taylor (Southend East, C) said during questions.

Mr John Wakeham, Lord President of the Council, said that Mrs Thatcher was in Brussels at a meeting of the European Council, dealing with those difficult issues. She goes with the good wishes and support of the British people.

Child debate is refused

The Speaker refused an emergency debate on the postponement of open heart surgery at Birmingham Children's Hospital on Clare Wood, aged seven, of Kidsgrove.

Miss Joan Walley (Stockport, Lab) said that at Christmas the child's parents had been told that she must have open heart surgery within three months.

She was called in for an operation on Monday, but on Wednesday they were told that all operations were cancelled until further notice.

Parliament next week

The main business in the House of Commons next week will be:

Monday: Debate on private member's motion on self-employment. Debate on agriculture.

Tuesday: Immigration Bill, remaining stages. Motion on Prevention of Terrorism.

Wednesday: Debate on abolition of Ilea. Motion to give extra time for debate of Education Reform Bill. Motion on rate-support grant.

Thursday: Motions on Social Fund regulations and on Rate Limitation order. Friday: Private members' motions.

The main business in the House of Lords will be: Monday: Local Government Bill, report, first day. Tuesday: Local Government Bill, report, second day. Prevention of Terrorism (Temporary Provisions) Act, 1984, Continuation Order.

Wednesday: Debates on Nature Conservancy Council and on nutritional labelling. Thursday: Local Government Bill, report, third day. Licensing Bill, second reading.

Friday: Debate on White Paper on DTI, the Department for Enterprise.

Economy 'not in inflation danger'

It would be unwise to read overheating of the economy into every indicator, Mr John Major, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said during Commons questions.

He was replying to Mr Nicholas Budgen (Wolverhampton South West, C), who said that the Ford dispute was unfortunate because in addition to inhibiting investment it was also, "a clear indication of overheating in the economy."

Mr Major added that if overheating in the economy were to appear, the Government would not hesitate to take action against inflationary pressures.

But supply-side improvements since 1979 meant that firms could operate at a much higher rate of capacity utilization than previously. "Mr Budgen's concern is a bit overdone."

TREASURY

Mr Stuart Holland, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs, said that manufacturing investment in real terms, at 1980 prices, was 10 per cent below the 1979 figure.

When would there be policies to ensure that savings were put into manufacturing investment to rebuild a competitive economy?

Mr Major said that the end product of investment was productivity and profitability, and the evidence that these were higher suggested that investment had been running at a high level and that it had been "quality" investment.

RAF is to continue helicopter rescues

Helicopter search and rescue services will continue to be provided by the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy wherever there is a military need, Mr Ian Stewart, Minister of State for the Armed Forces, announced during a debate on the RAF.

But the Department of Transport is to carry out a study of the needs for a civilian service to supplement the service provision.

Mr Stewart also announced that the support helicopter force for the armed services would remain under the RAF, rather than the Army.

An exercise to practise the United Kingdom's capability for rapid reinforcement of the Falkland Islands in case of emergency was to be held next month.

Mr Stewart said that there had been considerable interest in the proposal put to the Ministry of Defence by Bristol

Helicopters to replace the existing armed forces helicopter search and rescue function by a civilian contract.

"We have been considering whether our current arrangements for search and rescue could be improved, and in our studies we have felt bound to take into account the ideas which Bristol put forward."

"Although we have not yet reached a final conclusion about the most effective disposition of our resources for search and rescue, I can tell the House today that we have made a firm decision that, wherever there is a military requirement for search and rescue, it should continue to be provided by the RAF and the RN."

He said that RAF quick-reaction alert aircraft were scrambled an average of three or four times a week to intercept and identify Soviet military aircraft which penetrate the UK Air Defence Region.

DEFENCE

Modernization of UK air defence command and control systems and ground-based radar was well advanced. The bulk of the equipment had been built and installed.

Some was in service and the remainder would be introduced within four years. The UK was already capable of effective monitoring of the UK Air Defence Region of about 500,000 square miles.

An airborne early warning system for the 1990s would be provided by seven Boeing E3 aircraft which would make possible continuous patrols and identify the early approach of enemy aircraft.

This would be increasingly important as the Warsaw Pact developed its capacity for low level operations.

The first squadron of the Tornado air defence variant, the new interceptor aircraft, became operational at the beginning of November and a second squadron would become operational later this year.

There had been difficulties with the aircraft's Foxhunter air-intercept radar. Radar to an agreed interim standard had been fitted.

Since 1979 the Government had spent an extra £8 billion on the RAF after inflation.

Nine squadrons in Germany and the UK had been equipped with the Tornado GR1 for the strike-attack role.

Two more squadrons would be formed for reconnaissance, one based in Germany to replace the current Jaguar squadron, and another, later, in the UK. A mid-life improvement package was planned for the

Tornado GR1 for the early 1990s.

The replacement of the Harrier GR3 with the GR5 had been delayed by the loss in October of a GR5 test pilot and the subsequent ditching of his aircraft.

It was clearly right that after that accident the factors which caused it should be carefully considered, any recommendations implemented and all systems of the aircraft fully tested.

Test flying was expected to resume shortly and would include tests on the Ferranti inertial navigation system which had not yet been cleared for RAF flying.

In the absence of further problems, conversion training would begin later this year; 62 GR5s had been ordered, and should be delivered within two to three years.

Alton Bill supporters will campaign against MP

By Martin Fletcher
Political Reporter

Supporters of Mr David Alton's abortion Bill are to mount a campaign of direct extra-parliamentary action against a left-wing Labour MP.

They are to hold public fasts and prayer meetings in his constituency to protest at his conduct.

They claim that on Wednesday Mr Harry Cohen became the first MP to use the procedural device of filibustering to try to kill the Alton Bill, which cannot begin its committee stage in the Commons until two other private members' Bills have been examined.

Mr Cohen, who is honorary sheriff of a town in Massachusetts and is described in a parliamentary handbook as having "tasteless humour", spoke for 90 minutes on the Protection of Animals (Amendment) Bill, arguing, among other things, that penalties for those who mistreated animals should be made retrospective and suggesting that hard labour was a suitable punishment for animal cruelty. He has also tabled around 10 amendments to the Bill.

Mr Cohen denies the charge of filibustering.

He insisted yesterday that he has a long record of interest in animal welfare, that this was a rare opportunity to do some-



Mr Harry Cohen: Denies that he is filibustering

thing about it, and that he was not going to be "bounced" into giving way by Mr Alton or anyone else.

Supporters of Mr Alton's Bill, which will fall unless it completes its committee stage by early May, deride Mr Cohen's protestations of innocence.

They believe him to be merely the first of a string of expected filibusters, most of whom are holding their fire for Mr Andrew Maceley's Licensing (Retail Macheley's) Bill, and are determined to demonstrate that they will not be allowed to filibuster with impunity.

They were quick to point out that Mr Cohen's majority is a slender 4,641.

Pro-life and church organizations are gearing themselves up to hold mass fasts and prayer meetings in his constituency, Leyton, in east London, to coincide with further committee sittings on the Protection of Animals Bill.

Mr Cohen can also expect to receive many not entirely spontaneous protest letters.

Mr Alton said it was "disgraceful that one MP should frustrate the wishes of a Commons majority" in this way, and quite proper that Mr Cohen's constituents should be made aware of what he is doing in their name.

"However, we have sanctioned the actions of some of our supporters who wish to fast and pray for Mr Cohen. Obviously the more that procedural devices are used to frustrate the will of Parliament the more angry many of our supporters in the country will become," he said.

Mr Cohen was unimpressed by the threatened action. "I suggest they do the same for animals which suffer severe cruelty," he said. "These will be people coming in from outside to cause trouble. The people of Leyton are not to be taken in by outsiders."

Bill gets doctors' support

By Robin Oakley
Political Editor

The British Medical Association has come out in strong support of a private member's Bill, due to be debated today, which would provide for patients to have the right to see copies of medical reports requested from their doctors by employers or insurance companies.

Mr Michael Wilson, chairman of the BMA's General Medical Services Committee, has written to Mr Archie Kirkwood (Liberal MP for Roxburgh and Berwickshire) the promoter of the Bill, and to the Freedom of Information Campaign, which drafted it, expressing "strong support" for the principle of the Bill and calling for it to go further still.

As the Bill stands, it will give individuals the right to see reports produced for their existing or prospective employers or for insurance companies, with which they are seeking policies, giving them the chance to pick up errors that have crept into medical records and to withdraw their consent to the reports being sent if they object to them.

But the BMA says that it would like the Bill extended to cover all reports on individuals sent to third parties, such as those sent in support of national insurance and social security benefit claims.

Cults come under peers' attack

The following report of a Lords debate on the subject of religious cults on family life and young people appeared in later editions yesterday.

Many pseudo-religious cults practised slave labour, and sometimes child sex abuse and prostitution were involved, yet the Government had adopted a laissez-faire attitude to them, Lord Rodney, a Conservative peer, said in the Lords.

"Why are Scientists and others permitted to beg and importune in the street without a licence? Why is there no action against the Children of God, who practice child sex abuse and prostitution for recruiting purposes?"

Joining a cult was as destructive to the family as drug abuse. "And, strangely, the symptoms are similar - an air of secrecy, alienation from family and friends, frequent requests for money, a general attitude of dishonesty and, finally, departure from home."

Opening the debate, Lord Rodney said that parents of children seduced by these cults, and completely subjugated, felt a sense of hopelessness and helplessness. There was something sinister and underhand about the way recruiting was carried out. He wished that the established churches would be more robust and disown these cults.

The organization Infirm -

Symptoms 'similar to drug abuse'

Information Network Focus on Religious Movements - was supported by £20,000 from the Home Office every three years, but the Government had backed the wrong horse. He believed that Infirm's approach would be intellectual and sociological, with little use to a distraught mother who had lost her child to a cult and needed advice.

Lord Houghton of Sowerby (Lab) said that a close look must be taken at charitable registration.

The Bishop of Chelmsford, the Right Rev John Walne, in a maiden speech, said: I have had experience of speaking with distraught parents and the devastated spouse of someone who disappeared from the family scene as a result of being brought under the evil influence of one of the most notorious of these cults, which rejoices in the name of the Children of God.

We are told that there are fewer than 15,000 people belonging to these groups in the United Kingdom.

He said that distress was caused out of all proportion to the numbers involved.

"Many adherents of these cults have been disillusioned with society and, I have to admit, disillusioned with the Church, which appears to be at odds with itself and lukewarm in its commitment." The best antidote would be an enthusiastic and idealistic church, made

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Lord Houghton: Charitable registration to be looked at

up of supportive groups of Christians.

The churches intended to work with Infirm. He had been told that much of the press criticism was due largely to misunderstanding of its role or a misguided desire to undermine its work.

Lord Thorneley (Ind) hoped that it might be possible, through legislation if necessary,

to introduce a legal right of access, but there was no easy way to rescue those who had been brainwashed.

Lady Ewart-Biggs, from the Opposition front bench, said that objection to cults was not based on their beliefs, but on practices that involved deception, exploitation and manipulation of the mind.

There was a need to co-ordinate the efforts of organizations working to undo the harm caused by the cults.

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said that the ill effect of some of these bodies was well known, but unless they broke the criminal law there was nothing that could be done.

The Government was sponsoring Infirm, which had been established last month. It aimed to provide information on the activities of cults and provided counselling.

The question of denying cults charitable status was a tricky one. However, the Government was taking steps to improve the supervision of charities and intended to strengthen the powers of the Charity Commissioners.

Because an organization was of charitable status it did not follow automatically that it would receive tax concessions. These were scrutinized carefully by the Inland Revenue.

Shah 150

BA leads campaign to stop imposition of VAT on air fares

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways is leading a European-wide fight against EEC proposals to impose value added tax on air fares.

Sir Colin Marshall, the airline's chief executive, said yesterday that the proposals could put at least 15 per cent on the cost of an air ticket. The entire European aviation industry was working to have them dropped.

He said: "This is a very serious effort by the Commission and we are awaiting the draft paper that they have promised to issue on the subject; but they are deadly serious about it, and we in the European airline industry have been working to try to offset it and get it taken out of further programmes." He added that a group had been set up in the airline to fight the plans.

"It is absolutely absurd, given all the efforts to achieve lower fares that have been made in recent years, that we are now facing a 15 per cent tax which will apply throughout the Common Market", he said.

Sir Colin said that there would be many anomalies in the proposals. For example passengers would be able to

A total of 168 managers in British Airways have so far been made redundant or taken early retirement as part of the programme to merge the airline with British Airways. Decisions have yet to be taken on a further 40 managers and jobs offers have been made to 176.

At the same time 70 British Airways managers have been offered severance pay. British Airways is negotiating with unions leaders. Pilots, especially in British Airways, fear that once the two fleets are integrated they could lose years of seniority while some engineers could lose up to 30 per cent in their take-home pay.

Mr Peter Owen, the British Airways director in charge of the merger, said yesterday: "We are determined to get all the staff on to the same pay and conditions which now apply in British Airways".

travel to Switzerland without paying the tax and yet those going to Italy or other neighbouring countries would have to pay. It would also be difficult to police.

EEC officials and MPs have repeatedly tried to play down

the implications of the tax proposals since *The Times* disclosed them two weeks ago.

They maintain that the proposals are under study by bureaucrats and will be considered in full by the European Commission this year.

It was admitted, however, in a briefing held in Brussels last week in response to *The Times* disclosures, that "the principle of applying value added tax to passenger transportation is part of Community law. The fact is that if airlines were so genuinely concerned about high fares they could dismantle their cartel arrangements and lower the fares immediately".

Britain does not apply value added tax on transport at the moment, but other countries do. Italy imposes 18 per cent, Spain 12 per cent and Portugal 8 per cent.

The proposals are said to be for a generally reduced rate of tax of between 4 and 9 per cent.

Sir Colin said that the airlines believed that would eventually prove to be 15 per cent.

Banking change splits canine charity

By Ruth Gledhill

A national canine charity may be investigated by the Charity Commission after a change in its banking arrangements.

The commissioners are writing to the trustees of Pro Dogs about a dispute which has split the organization and led to mass resignations, it emerged at the first day of Crufts Dog Show at Earls Court yesterday.

Pro Dogs, which aims to promote better education and understanding about dogs and also runs a dog visiting scheme to people in homes and hospitals, has lost hundreds of branch members.

The charity changed its constitution at its annual general meeting last December.

More than a third of its branches have resigned in protest and are forming new organizations. They say the financial change deprived them of their autonomy.

Mrs Marjorie Henley Price, formerly a regional organizer for Scotland and the Scottish branch chairman, said she had resigned her position and her branch has also voted to leave.

The change affected branch banking arrangements. In the past, branches have paid a levy to the Pro Dogs head office in Maidstone, Kent. The new constitution requires that branches pay all funds raised into a deposit account to which head office has access while a regular cashflow is maintained in a current account for their use.

One of the charity's spon-



Let sleeping dogs lie: obedience classes yesterday at Crufts (Photograph: Mark Crick).

sors, who asked not to be named said: "We give about £500 a year to Pro Dogs, by sponsoring dog show classes. But we are beginning to question whether we should

be associated with it." Another former regional organizer, Mrs Eve Waring, from the South-west, said 10 out of 29 branches were resigning. The Somerset

branch, of which she was chairman, voted unanimously to leave Pro Dogs and Mrs Waring is behind a new organization called Canine Concern England.

"Pro Dogs was my whole life. This decision was really traumatic for me. But we are dissatisfied with how Pro Dogs is being run."

Mrs Lesley Scott Ordish, Pro Dogs founder, said: "It is just a storm in a teacup. We have 13,000 members separate from the branches."

Mrs Scott Ordish added: "The Charity Commission is tightening up all the time on its charities. We introduced our new rules to tighten up our own organization."

"There are only two established branches that have gone, the others were comparatively new branches and we already have some new branches in the pipeline."

Can Dogs: Best of Breed

German Shepherd: Mrs D & Mrs S. Finkler, Hildesheim, Germany. Border Collie: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Boxer: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Bull Terrier: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Cocker Spaniel: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Dalmatian: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Doberman Pinscher: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. English Bulldog: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. French Bulldog: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. German Shepherd: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Golden Retriever: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Labrador Retriever: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Manchester Terrier: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Miniature Pinscher: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Norfolk Island: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Old English Sheepdog: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Papillon: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Pomeranian: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Portuguese Water Dog: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Rottweiler: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Scottish Fold: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Shetland Sheepdog: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Shiba Inu: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Shih Tzu: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Siberian Husky: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Smooth Fox Terrier: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Staffordshire Bull Terrier: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Standard Poodle: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Toy Poodle: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Weimaraner: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. West Highland White Terrier: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Wire Fox Terrier: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany. Yorkshire Terrier: Mrs J. & Mrs. C. Smith, Hildesheim, Germany.

Tobacconists 'are like drug pushers'

By Thomson Prestice, Science Correspondent

The British Medical Association yesterday described tobacconists as drug pushers for selling cigarettes to children after new evidence showed that they rapidly become addicted to nicotine.

The law forbidding the sale of cigarettes to under-16s should be more strictly enforced, the association said.

It also called for a 21 per cent increase in cigarette tax and said anti-smoking campaigns should be aimed at primary schoolchildren.

A survey of girls at a London comprehensive showed that a third of them took cigarettes occasionally, while a quarter smoked regularly. More than half of the smokers had their first cigarette by the age of 10, and 50 per cent of the 14-year-old pupils were smokers.

The study, by Ms Ann McNeill, a research psychologist, also disclosed that 71 per cent of the smokers had tried and failed to give up the habit.

"They became addicted very quickly and most suffered withdrawal symptoms when they tried to stop", she said at a news conference.

Dr John Dawson, head of the association's professional and scientific division, said: "It is scandalous that we now need to direct health campaigns at primary school pupils because many have become smokers even before they reach secondary school."

"These children are taking into their lungs the chemicals and carcinogens that will go on to cause lung cancer and heart disease later in life."

"Tobacconists are pushing drugs to these children and they ought to be treated like drug pushers. They are doing it for profit, it is against the law and there is no excuse."

The association has put its case for increased tobacco tax to the Government and last night an all-party group of MPs was meeting Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to support the call.

Weekend food prices

Storms make fish more expensive

Fishermen have been affected by the recent storms which have caused shortages of certain species of fresh fish. Many family favourites are more expensive this week, particularly cod, codling and haddock, but quality has not been affected.

Dab, hake, Dover sole and monkfish could be difficult to find in some areas but herring and mackerel are plentiful and good value. Lemon soles, if one can find them, will probably cost about £3.60 a lb. Plaice between £1.20 and £3.30, coley about £1.30 and trout at £1.80 are among the best buys.

From the Middle East there is an abundance of colourful parrot fish retailing at about £3 a lb.

A warming clam chowder could be the answer to the cold evenings and at £1.60 a lb it will not break the bank. Mussels are 55p a pint and Pacific prawns £5.50 a dozen.

Rump steak is probably the outstanding beef bargain. In some areas the price is down 12p a lb. At Sainsbury rump steak is down from £3.08 a lb to £1.98; topside and silver-side roasting joints will cost between £1.89 and £2.88. A standing rib roast cost between £1.29 and £1.88.

Prices for home-produced lamb are up, particularly in the South-east, but then the general quality is probably better as there is more young tender, lean lamb on sale: the

price range is wide and while leg could be as little as £1.38 a lb or as much as £2.78.

Pork is consistently good value: leg is about £1.05 a lb and boneless shoulder, about £1.25, will make an economical family meal. If like a third of the world's population you wish to celebrate Chinese new year on February 17 remember pork takes well to Chinese cuisine.

There are many good meat and poultry offers: Tesco leg of pork 88p a lb, home-produced lamb cutlets £1.39 and fresh chicken 64p; Presto pork boneless leg and chump steaks £1.52; Safeway 3lb packs of minced beef £2.58 a lb, fresh chicken up to 34p 60p a lb. Asda frozen standard turkeys 7lb to 7lb 15oz are £3.99 each.

Citrus fruit has tremendous appeal at this time of year and there is something to suit everybody's taste, from the tiny tart satsumas £1.60 to £2 a lb to the monstrous ugli fruit at 50p to 70p each.

In between there are superb oranges from 10p to 30p each, tangerines 18p to 25p each, minceolas 20p-25p each and the last of the clementines between 55p-65p a lb.

Home-produced cabbages at 15p-30p a lb, cauliflowers 55p-70p each, leeks 40p-60p a lb, Brussels sprouts 16p-20p a lb, mushrooms 40p-75p a lb and potatoes 11p-15p a lb are all excellent.

Salad tomatoes are expensive and of poor quality.

BR investigated over £20m fraud allegation

Detectives are investigating alleged corruption and fraud that could have cost British Rail up to £20 million.

Scores of people have been interviewed in an inquiry which was centred in Derby but has spread to Nottingham and Nottingham.

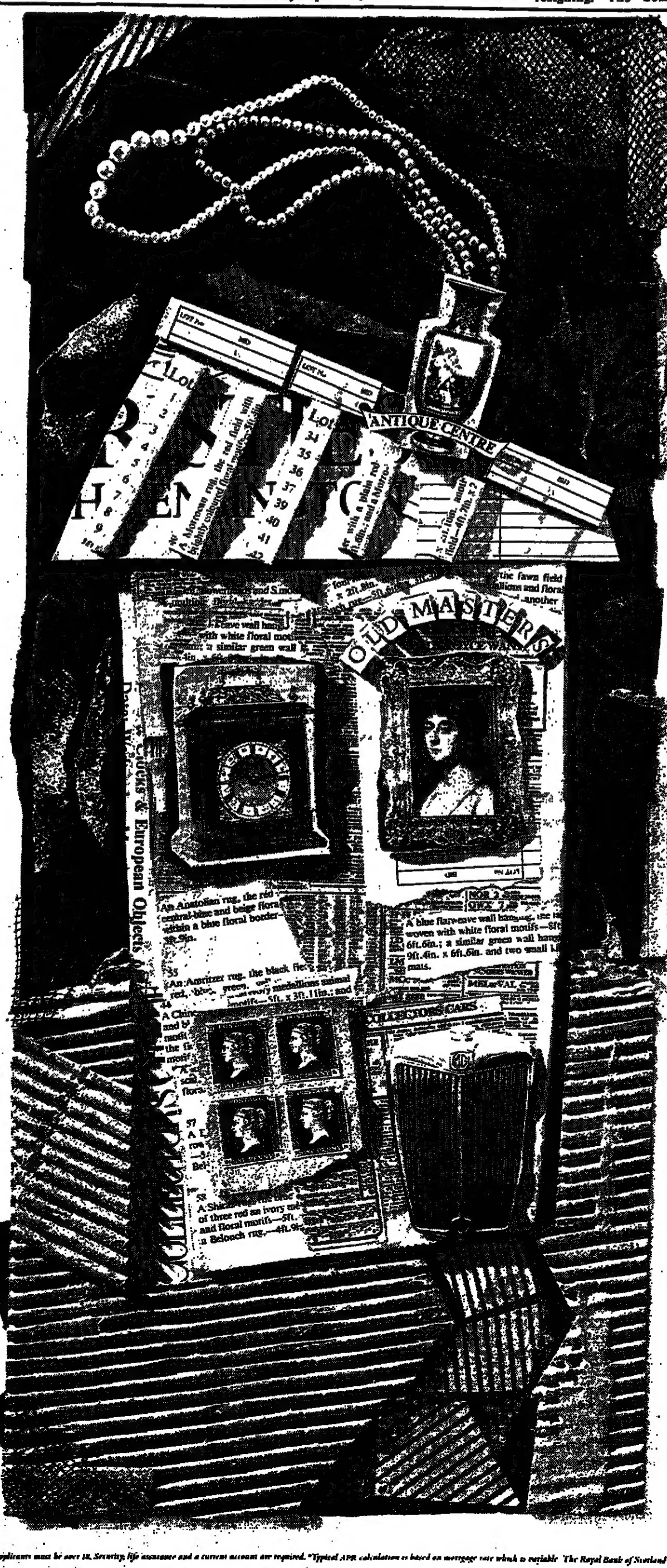
British Rail employees are said to have received cases of whisky, electrical goods and holidays abroad for their part in the fraud.

Files on the case are being passed to the Director of

Public Prosecutions and to Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Attorney General.

The inquiry has been co-ordinated by senior British Transport Police in London and carried out by officers in Nottingham and Derby. The alleged fraud arises from the sale of British Rail vehicles and maintenance contracts.

At least two British Rail employees are believed to have been dismissed and more have been suspended.



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Grants cut to universities with poor research rating

By Sarah Thompson,
Education Reporter

Ten universities and equivalent institutions are to suffer sharp cash cuts this year because they performed poorly in the University Grants Committee's research rating exercise of 1986.

One, Aberdeen University, is locked in a deepening dispute with the committee and may have to make compulsory redundancies because the committee has backed on a promise that it would have an extra three years to wipe out its deficit of £1.2 million.

Mr Robert Jackson, Minister for Higher Education, said yesterday that the Government was giving the committee £1.574 million, an increase of 8.2 per cent over the previous year.

However, in the grants announced yesterday universities are getting only a 3.2 per cent rise this year in their basic distribution grant from the Government. Nearly 40 of the 52 institutions under the committee's jurisdiction are seeing increases below the current inflation rate of about 3.7 per cent.

The provisional figures for 1989-90 show that the overall increase will be 3 per cent, again below expected inflation rates. The overall rise is "somewhat less than the Government's latest forecasts for the increase in general inflation", Sir Peter Swinerton-Dyer, chairman of the committee, acknowledges in his letter to vice-chancellors.

After the abolition of a funding "safety net" which last year protected institutions which were due for heavy cuts because of their poor performance in the ratings exercise, the 10 "worst loser" institutions are to be cut by between

HOW THE UNIVERSITIES FARED 1988-89

Grants rising by more than the inflation rate of 3.7 per cent (£m):

University	1987-88	1988-89	Per cent change
Ulster	30,079	32,478	+8
Wolverhampton	19,899	21,274	+7
York	12,450	13,269	+6
Bath	15,244	16,209	+6
Southampton	27,183	28,841	+6
Kent	11,514	12,245	+6
Sussex	15,249	16,000	+5
Loughborough	20,291	21,184	+4
Bristol	31,676	33,258	+5
Manchester	50,056	52,033	+4
Wales C of Medicine	7,090	7,396	+4
Strathclyde	24,809	25,638	+4

Grants rising by less than the inflation rate (£m):

University	1987-88	1988-89	Change
Leicester	18,870	19,542	+3
Manchester I of Science & Tech	17,206	17,857	+4
Oxford	46,983	48,592	+3
Surrey	13,436	13,902	+3
Heriot-Watt	11,240	11,641	+4
Cambridge	46,344	47,573	+3
Lancaster	14,179	14,584	+3
London	248,906	258,219	+4
Nottingham	29,137	30,009	+3
Salford	13,543	13,985	+3
St David's, Lampeter	2,046	2,109	+3
U C Cardiff, U of Wales I of Science & Tech	26,295	27,061	+3
Welsh Registry (central office U of W)	2,315	2,391	+3
Aston	13,467	13,877	+3
Birmingham	39,059	39,876	+2
Bradford	15,342	15,691	+2
Essex	9,032	9,274	+3
Hull	14,749	15,029	+2
Leeds	44,126	44,973	+2
Liverpool	38,698	39,508	+2
Imperial College (in London U)	31,686	32,465	+2
Sheffield	32,638	33,274	+2
Edinburgh	45,670	46,593	+2
Glasgow	46,392	47,584	+2
St Andrews	11,576	11,763	+2
Newcastle	32,790	33,236	+1
City	11,941	12,150	+2
Aberystwyth U C	10,337	10,470	+1
Ulster	15,268	15,362	+1
Strirling	8,282	8,288	unch

Universities suffering actual cash cuts (£m):

University	1987-88	1988-89	Change
London Business School	1,899	1,803	-5
Brunel	13,778	13,745	-0.5
Durham	17,730	17,728	-1
Keele	8,567	8,490	-1
Bangor Univ Coll	11,045	10,928	-1
Cardiff	22,486	22,018	-2
Queen's, Belfast	31,588	31,087	-2
East Anglia	15,056	14,866	-1
Dundee	15,056	14,651	-3
Manchester Business School	1,121	0,988	-12

0.5 and 12 per cent in cash terms in the academic year 1988-89.

Aberdeen University's grant is being cut this year by 2 per cent. Its senate has written to Sir Peter expressing its "disgust and unease" that he has gone back on his earlier advice that they had three

years longer than the standard planning period in which to wipe out the deficit.

The deficit was caused by historical over-funding for which the university is recognized by him not to be responsible.

A further uncertainty for universities this year stems from the lack of a government estimate of grant for 1990-91. Universities are being advised to plan on the assumption that it will rise by 3 per cent again.

Sir Peter says that the uncertainty is partly because of the committee's second "research assessment exercise", in which universities will be ranked according to the income generated by research, and the planned changeover to the Universities Funding Council taking place next year.

On paper, the worst affected institution appears to be the Manchester Business School which, in the two years from 1987, is to see a 25 per cent reduction in its grant.

In his annual report, Mr Robert Telfer, the school's director, yesterday predicted that student fees, which rose by 30 per cent last year to nearly £4,000 for an MBA, will have to rise again by more than 30 per cent.

The penalized institutions will not have an opportunity to show a better rating on the committee's funding criteria, and thus win more government funds, until 1990-91. Another 30 institutions receive grant rises below the inflation rate.

Sir Peter says in his letter that universities which are in severe financial difficulties, as a result, may be offered some help from a £155 million cash bonus for universities announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in the autumn.

General Synod debates education Bill Call for religion in curriculum

By Alan Wood



The Bishop of London, Dr Graham Leonard, addressing the synod on Mr Baker's reforms, as outlined in *The Times*.

The Church of England's General Synod has backed an attempt by its board of education to amend the Government's Education Reform Bill.

By 267 votes to four, with 13 abstentions, the synod carried a motion by the Bishop of London and chairman of the education board, Dr Graham Leonard, sharing the board's concern about the possible consequences of the Bill and supporting its intention to seek amendments.

Prime among these is a call to strengthen the position of religious instruction and worship within the proposed new national curriculum. There is also concern about the reduced role of local education authorities, which could weaken the role of the church in education.

In his speech recommending the board's report on the Bill, Dr Leonard skilfully dissected an article in *The Times* on February 1 by Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science. The bishop wanted the Bill modified so that the Government's aims, which the church shared, might be fulfilled, but without damage to the nation's schools.

On a show of hands, the synod firmly rejected an amendment proposed by the Rev David

schools to "opt out" as an extension of choice beyond that provided through the existence of church schools. But this overlooked the crucial difference between voluntary schools and the new grant-maintained schools.

Voluntary schools were within the system in terms of partnership with the local education authorities, the maintained schools were not in the system at all and would introduce a new span to the education system.

The Church of England would not oppose extension of choice within the system, Dr Leonard said. "What we fear are the consequences of setting up a new system, a parallel system, virtually a rival system."

In his *Times* article, Mr Baker had also intensified fears by discussing for the first time the possibility that a church school could opt out of a church school once it opted out, if the governors so proposed and provided consultative procedures were completed.

Mr Baker had stated he would not consider agreeing to any such change if the trustees were against it. But the Bill as drafted, the Bishop of London said, would enable any later holder of the office of Secretary of State to agree to such a proposal, whatever the views of the relevant trustees might be.

The Church of England's board of education was still firmly of the view that checks and balances on the Secretary of State's powers in many areas of the Bill were inadequate.

The board was also continuing to ask for religious education to be a foundation subject. The Bill as it stood would weaken the position of RE, not strengthen it as the Government claimed it was trying to do.

Dr Leonard also referred to the danger that parental choice could be exercised in such a way as to create racially segregated schools and/or religiously-based ghetto schools for the first time described by ministers as the necessary price of freedom, but one must wonder whether the price was not too high.

Professor J R Porter (South-east Universities) argued that religious education would be in no worse a position under the new Bill than it was at present; indeed, it would be in a better position. Parents would have a

6 We fear the consequences of a rival education system

much clearer and stronger right of complaint if they felt religious education was not being provided as required by law.

Cassia Iwa, South-Cameroon (Southwest) said the Bill had been crippled by the Government's reluctance to reflect the ethnic mix of British society.

Schools would be enabled to take more pupils. A ghetto effect could be produced as a result of a white flight to a few schools.

Miss D R Etchells (Durham), a university teacher, said that if they were going to abolish academic freedom for life, then academic freedom must visibly be safeguarded. She saw neither "reds nor fascists" under the bed, but had watched a procession of academics in other countries relieved of their posts because they taught subjects unpopular with their governments.

"I am not suggesting the present Government would remove any academic in this way, but what is being dismantled is the apparatus of defence," she said.

Mr Stephen De Silva (St Albans), head of religious studies at a comprehensive school, said the 10 foundation subjects were rapidly becoming the 10 Commandments. Religious education was being placed on one side.

The Bishop of Peterborough, the Right Rev William Westwood, said the nation needed better science and technology; if there were a price, it would have to be paid. He wanted to affirm the possibilities of choice which the Bill did offer.

Dr Helen King (Guildford) said a curriculum was being proposed for five to 16-year-olds. What were the implications for science as a core subject at primary level?

Preb John Pearce (London) considered the Bill was very necessary. He wanted parents to be given more responsibility.

The Rev D N Gibbs (Sheffield) also supported the general thrust of the Bill.

Neighbourhood watch schemes cut burglary

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Successes against burglary, a key aim of neighbourhood watch schemes, are disclosed in a sample taken by *The Times* of the latest provincial crime figures.

Burglary, which fell by 5 per cent in the Metropolitan Police area last year, has also fallen in Greater Manchester (9 per cent), West Midlands (11 per cent), Merseyside (8 per cent), Sussex (5 per cent) and Northumbria (3 per cent).

Burglaries increased by 3.9 per cent last year in Devon and Cornwall, where there was a 10.1 per cent rise in house burglaries.

Gwent, which has had a campaign against burglary in commercial property, saw the rewards with a 5 per cent cut.

After a 4 per cent fall in overall crime recorded by the Metropolitan Police, the survey statistics give further grounds for cautious optimism as the Government increases its crime prevention campaign.

In the West Midlands and Greater Manchester forces the latest total of recorded crime is virtually unchanged, while on Merseyside there was a drop in 1987 of 2.2 per cent. The West Midlands showed a rise of only 1.5 per cent in 1987.

The main exceptions to the trend were Northumbria with a rise of 4.6 per cent in all recorded crime during 1987. Avon and Somerset (8 per cent) and Cheshire (8.9 per cent).

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Indians set for mass offensive

Colombo — An indefinite curfew was imposed on some parts of Sri Lanka's Eastern Province including the coastal town of Batticaloa yesterday in preparation for a major Indian offensive on the main Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Vijitha Yapa writes). "About 20,000 Indian troops are already here," a police official in Batticaloa said.

Residents of Batticaloa said the constant movement of aircraft during the past few days indicated that more troops were being flown in and then moved to other areas by helicopter. During the week Indian troops began combing the jungle area around Padavankari about 15 miles from Batticaloa. There are now more than 50,000 Indian troops in Sri Lanka's Eastern and Northern Provinces, according to sources at the Indian High Commission.

Glider sentence

Jerusalem — The Israeli Army officer who was in command of the camp attacked by a Palestinian hang glider pilot in November was given a six-month suspended prison sentence, reduced in rank and dismissed from the Army by a court martial in Jaffa yesterday (Ian Murray writes).

Captain Ben Elizar was found negligent for having failed to put the camp on alert after a warning that a hang glider had crossed the border from Lebanon. Six soldiers were killed and seven injured before the Palestinian was shot.

Nofziger is guilty

Washington — In another embarrassment to the White House, Mr. Lyn Nofziger, former political director to President Reagan, has been found guilty of illegal lobbying in violation of conflict of interest laws (Christopher Thomas writes).

Mr. Nofziger, aged 63, a friend of Mr. Reagan for more than 20 years, faces a maximum penalty of six years' imprisonment. His conviction came less than two months after Mr. Michael Deaver, the former deputy White House Chief of Staff, was found guilty of perjury.

Agony at hospital gate

Paris — The French Minister of Health, Mme Michèle Barzach, has launched an urgent inquiry into the case of a young woman who lay in agony by the gates of Antoine-Béchère hospital in a Paris suburb for more than 20 minutes before dying on the operating table (Philip Jacobson writes). Eric Pernot, aged 18, who had been hit by a car, was reportedly left in a pool of blood while hospital staff and emergency services argued about responsibility for helping him. Mme Barzach referred angrily to the "revolting" possibility that rigid official guidelines had contributed to the tragedy.

General sacked

Buenos Aires (Reuters) — The Argentine Army said that it had dismissed a general favoured by mutinous officers involved in two anti-government rebellions.

A spokesman for the Defence Ministry said that General Heriberto Auel, the chief of operations of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, had been relieved of his post. Ministry sources said that the army chief, General Dante Cardini, ordered the removal because General Auel refused to explain why the rebels mentioned him as a candidate for the job of Army commander-in-chief.

Contras to talk

Miami (AFP) — Representatives of the Nicaraguan Contras will take part in direct ceasefire negotiations with the Sandinista Government next week, Señor Aristides Sanchez, a member of the Nicaraguan Resistance Directorate, has pledged.

The Contras postponed talks scheduled for Wednesday in Guatemala because the US Congress voted not to send \$36.2 million (\$20.5 million) in aid to them. The new move has been made at the request of Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, the Archbishop of Managua, acting as mediator.

Roh's liberal premier

Seoul — The Prime Minister of South Korea's nascent democracy is to be a distinguished academic and economist, with no experience of government but impeccable credentials as an opponent of authoritarian rule (Gavin Bell writes).

Mr Lee Hyun Jae, right, a former president of Seoul University, was nominated yesterday by Mr. Roh Tae Woo, the President-elect, evidently to reinforce the liberal image of his administration, which is due to take office in two weeks. Mr. Lee, aged 58, has no political party affiliation. In 1985 he was made to resign as president of Seoul National University after he refused to expel students involved in anti-government protests.

A spokesman for the ruling Democratic Justice Party said he had been chosen "because he is suitable for bringing about national harmony, and giving a fresh image to the Government." As Prime Minister, Mr. Lee will wield considerably more influence than any of his predecessors. But his appointment will be a further blow to the divided opposition trying to regroup before parliamentary elections which are due to be held next month.

Republican war of attrition in New Hampshire

Support crumbles for rattled Bush

From Michael Binyon, Nashua, New Hampshire

It is, as Vice-President George Bush would put it, "tension city" among the Republicans here. Mr. Bush, wounded in Iowa, is beginning to see his solid support in New Hampshire crumble. If he cannot hang on to it his candidacy is doomed.

A poll by the *Boston Globe* published yesterday showed that the race, in which Mr. Bush had a 20-point lead only a week ago, is now neck-and-neck, with Mr. Bush leading Senator Robert Dole by only two per cent, 29 per cent to 27.

Mr. Bush, clearly rattled, has begun to fight back with a torrent of television advertisements emphasizing his closeness to President Reagan, who is popular here, and his past.

In one telling advertisement, pictures of the two men appear side by side. As Mr. Dole lists all the important Bills passed, and the fight for ratification of the new arms treaty, he insists that "George Bush has nothing to do with it". Mr. Bush's picture then slowly disappears.

Mr. Dole, counselled two weeks ago by the former President, Mr. Richard Nixon, to take the offensive, is now giving free rein to his quick wit and boundless energy.

He is everywhere, especially on television, striding through hotel lobbies shaking hands — even with foreign reporters — making speeches on foreign policy, even joining his wife, Elizabeth, behind a counter to serve hamburgers while the cameras roll.

She is a considerable asset to him, as he acknowledged in brushing aside talk of a Dole ticket: "I don't want to be just Vice-President."

Mr. Dole has taken a firm

win in the South next month. He has also refused to attack the Rev. Pat Robertson, aware that the former evangelist has strong support in the South.

But he has begun to attack Mr. Dole as a creature of Congress, which he denounces as an ineffective body. "I made more decisions running the CIA in a week than I did during my four years in Congress."

In the battle of advertisements, however, Mr. Dole appears to be winning. Unlike his tactic in Iowa, he also has wrapped himself in President Reagan's mantle, insisting that as Senate Republican Leader he did more than Mr. Bush to translate the President's agenda into law.

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Mr. Dole has taken a firm



The Rev. Pat Robertson, left, greeting a supporter of his campaign for the Republican nomination in Lancaster, New Hampshire, yesterday during the run-up to Tuesday's primary.

line, insisting he will test and deploy the Strategic Defence Initiative, and draws applause for calling the House of Representatives' severing of aid to the Contras a "grave mistake". Mr. Bush is still floundering in the Iran-Contra affair. In a live NBC interview, where both the anchor-

man and Mr. Bush tried to avoid the fiasco of the Dan Rather confrontation, Mr. Bush got bogged down trying to clear up the nagging details. He finally admitted that he still had not told everything, nor did he intend to, as he believed his discussions with Mr. Reagan should remain

confidential. It was a less than convincing defence.

Despite endorsements from Governor John Sununu and other New Hampshire leaders, many conservatives here believe that Mr. Bush has never really accepted the Reagan political agenda and are impressed by Mr. Dole

Waldheim historian in clash

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

The Israeli member of the commission which investigated President Waldheim's wartime career claimed yesterday that the Austrian Government had put pressure on the commission to soften its conclusions.

Mr. Jehuda Wallach, who voiced concern this week that the report was being interpreted as an exoneration of President Waldheim's activities in the Balkans, was not specific, but criticized in particular Herr Thomas Klestil, head of the Austrian Foreign Office and former ambassador to the US.

While the commission's report found that President Waldheim had not been "actively" involved in war crimes, it was highly critical of his statements, seen as an attempt to deny his wartime career.

The Foreign Ministry in Vienna yesterday vigorously rejected Mr. Wallach's claims. A spokesman for Herr Klestil's office accused the historian of making "unfounded" statements.

Waldheim's address: President Waldheim is to make a televised address to the nation this weekend. Informal sources said in Vienna, amid reports that he had pressed the Government to reject the report on his wartime activities (AFP reports). He has said that he will not resign.

Jordan Prime Minister talks to The Times

Israel 'must leave territories'

From Ian Murray, Amman

Israel must agree to withdraw from all the occupied territories, including East Jerusalem, before Jordan is prepared to negotiate for peace. "Land is not negotiable," Mr. Zaid al-Rifai, the Jordanian Prime Minister, told *The Times* yesterday.

There was no question of the Government in Amman's agreeing to any international "opening" to negotiations, short of a full-scale conference with a continuing role, until peace was agreed. "We are not after a photo-opportunity," he said.

Mr. al-Rifai said that Jordan had been told nothing so far of the details of an American plan outlined in Jerusalem by Israeli Foreign Ministry officials on Wednesday.

This proposal involved an "opening" followed immediately by the setting up of autonomy arrangements in the occupied territories, with negotiations for a final settlement starting in December.

The United States had said only that it wanted to revitalise the peace process. "It is still working on a set of

principles to give to the regional parties," he said.

"We will never accept something called an 'opening'. We are talking about a full-scale international conference with an ongoing role. The purpose of the conference would be to implement United Nations resolutions which called for the withdrawal of Israel and to settle the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. Anything short of that is unacceptable to us."

Jordan would also insist that the Palestine Liberation Organization represented the Palestinians, even if it formed part of a joint delegation. "We really have no differences with the PLO," he said. "Our only problem is that we are talking about what is possible. They are talking about what they would like to do. We support them in what they would like — but is it possible?"

"We would have no problem recognizing and living with an independent Palestinian state. But can they get one? We don't mind if they go as an independent delegation. As a matter of fact, we'd welcome them. It would be a big relief

for Jordan. But can they get invited? Then they are looking for self-determination. But Israel and the US oppose all those things. Is it possible to have a conference on that basis? If so, fine — no problem. But we are talking about what is pragmatic."

Each delegation would individually need the right to refer any impasse to the conference. He said: "We would like the moral weight of the world to be available to assist the parties. We realize that an international conference cannot impose any settlements or veto any agreement. But it certainly has an ongoing role throughout the whole process."

Mr. al-Rifai said that interim arrangements on autonomy, as outlined in the American plan, did not really count. What mattered was agreeing the final status of the occupied territories.

The Israelis refused to agree to a conference, he declared, "because they reject the basis on which the conference would be held."

"The international com-

ference would give an international legitimacy essential in our search for ways to implement the resolutions calling for withdrawal. They want face-to-face negotiations without the conference because peace to them means peace in place; peace on the status quo. That is not peace; that is submission."

The return of Arab Jerusalem was not negotiable but essential for peace, "but when that happened, it should not automatically mean a return to pre-1967 conditions of having a divided city with barbed wire and minefields. It is not beyond human ingenuity to devise a way under conditions of peace to have a special status for the city of Jerusalem," he said.

A confederation between independent Palestine and Jordan would give the Palestinians the kind of access to the world they needed, as well as enabling them to have their own identity. The two states on the east and west banks of the Jordan would have a very special relationship, he said, because they were really one people.

Islamabad drags feet on Afghan deal

By Edward Gorman

As diplomatic efforts to reach a settlement in Afghanistan intensify, there are increasing signs that the Pakistani Government may resist what it sees as attempts by the Soviet Union to bulldoze it into an agreement with Kabul at Geneva next month.

The Pakistanis are not prepared to support a deal which will neither end the fighting nor address the key issue of the nature of an interim government during a phased withdrawal of Soviet troops.

The developing gulf between Soviet and Pakistani positions — which puts prospects for accord in Geneva in doubt — was underlined yesterday after the Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Yuli Vorontsov, emerged from two days of talks in Islamabad with Pakistani leaders.

"Maybe we are moving rather swiftly for some of the other participants in this

drama," he said. "But we are moving decisively, and we hope others will do the same."

The Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman was less enthusiastic. "From Pakistan's viewpoint, any solution which does not ensure conditions of peace and security

Peshawar (AFP) — Professor Bahaudin Majrooh, director of the pro-rebel Afghan Information Centre here, was assassinated yesterday, his family said. Professor Majrooh, who had been dean of literature at Kabul University before the Soviet intervention, was shot at his Peshawar home by an unknown gunman.

and an end to strife will be no more than half a solution."

Diplomatic sources said that all attempts by Pakistani officials to discuss how an interim government could be formed had been brushed aside by Mr. Vorontsov.

Pakistan is concerned that

an agreement at Geneva dealing exclusively with terms for a Soviet withdrawal, but not addressing the question of the interim government, will do little either to encourage the three million refugees to return or satisfy the demands of the Mujahidin leadership.

Yesterday the seven-party Resistance alliance underlined its determination not to cooperate with Dr. Najibullah's Government by announcing its own transitional government to include "Muslims inside Afghanistan; refugees and intellectuals abroad". Resistance leaders said that their government could be ready by March 2.

Among observers monitoring the peace process in Islamabad, there is a growing feeling that Mr. Gorbachev's sudden intervention last Monday, in which he said Soviet troops could start withdrawing by May 15 providing agreement is reached at Geneva by mid-

March, had taken Pakistan by surprise and placed Islamabad under intense diplomatic pressure to compromise its stance.

Mr. Vorontsov did little to dispel that impression, remarking pointedly after the talks: "Any delays in the signing of the Geneva accords will mean only one thing — and that will be a delay in the withdrawal of Soviet forces."

In a separate development yesterday, the Afghan Bakhtar news agency claimed that Mujahidin groups had planned to shoot down the plane of the United Nations mediator, Señor Diego Cordovez, on a recent trip to Kabul.

WASHINGTON: The Reagan Administration has reacted favourably to Moscow's pledge to withdraw its 115,000 troops from Afghanistan (Christopher Thomas writes). It is studying precise terms for ending aid to the anti-communist guerrillas under a peace settlement.

French seduced by supernatural sting

From Philip Jacobson, Paris

Once bitten, twice shy. Unless, that is, you come from the little town of Vesoul, in the Jura region of eastern France. For the third time in less than five years its inhabitants have fallen hook, line and sinker for strikingly uncomplicated confidence tricks played by enterprising visitors from West Africa.

Faced with the eagerness with which they have lined up to be fleeced of several hundred thousand francs, one begins to understand why the stolid country folk of the Jura often appear unfalteringly in French jokes.

Vesoul's latest misfortune featured a self-styled marabout, or priest-cum-witch-doctor, from Guinea who,

once installed in a fine flat, advertised his services as follows: "Monsieur Mohammed, celebrated soothsayer and practitioner of the supernatural, open 8am to 8pm, telephone for serious and efficacious treatment."

Among the options on offer were love potions, casting of spells, occult consultation and a "sure-fire way" to secure a good job.

According to an entertaining account in *Le Figaro*, business was slow to start with, but picked up noticeably when word went round Vesoul that M. Mohammed never raised the vulgar matter of his fee. Only when a client was well and truly hooked would he let slip his greatest secret —

an ancient, extraordinarily potent African ritual by which he could guarantee to double any sum of money placed between the pages of his "sacred book".

If this sounds too good to be true, consider that only last August Vesoul was all agog over "Maitre Diaby" from Senegal, a sorcerer by trade. He was doing very nicely, thank you, freeing people from evil spells by means of "demagnetization" at 100 francs (£10) a time, when the local police stepped in. Even then they had a difficult job getting anyone to testify against a fellow with such supernatural gifts.

Five years earlier, in an even less sophisticated operation, another itinerant mar-

about had invited townspeople to deposit their capital in a large suitcase — where it would miraculously multiply. He was last seen leaving Vesoul, suitcase in hand.

There is not much more to tell about M. Mohammed's sting. When the "sacred book" was bulging with francs — the equivalent of some £30,000 by most reckonings — he retreated for 48 hours of uninterrupted solitude to cast his cabalistic charms.

Adieu Vesoul, or perhaps it should be *à la prochaine* — until the next time?

● An opinion poll in 1985 suggested that 18 per cent of the French believe in sorcery.

What is
New Scientist
and why don't
we drive our cars
on par-boiled
broccoli?

All of which tells you something even more interesting: that New Scientist isn't the magazine you probably think it is.

That's not to say we don't have our serious side. But in New Scientist, recent developments in science and technology take on an immediate, dramatic and irresistible relevance to your life. Every aspect of it.

For instance, this week we report on parallel computing and the future impact it will have on everything from space photography to interior design. We peer into the 'missing mass' in our galaxy, and ponder the role of brown dwarfs. And we take a close, hard look at the government's plans to privatise electricity and the real implications behind the decision.

The February 11th issue of New Scientist also includes our regular Inside Science supplement, a special pull-out section devoted, this week, to the complex and controversial subject of radioactivity.

Why not pick up a copy of New Scientist at your newsagent's today and see for yourself. There's a lot you're going to like... and (just maybe) even more to laugh about.

If you're piqued over petrol prices and indignant about diesel, you can always consider running your car on cabbage, cauliflower or the casual dump of broccoli. Or at least you could have, if an inventor in the Channel Islands had his way.

Apparently, he has developed a method to synthesise petrol from common-or-garden vegetables. You just pulp the things in a pressure cooker, feed 12 volts through a silver anode and mild-steel cathode, and Bob's your uncle.

We haven't actually tested it here at New Scientist. But in a recent article, we reported on this and dozens of other crazy inventions. (If you think par-boiled petrol is weird, you should have read the one about heat-sensitive brasseries).

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LEADING THE WAY
TO THE U.S.A.

TWA

Washington pares down army to pay for weapons

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The US Army will shrink this year to a 10-year low of 772,600 soldiers, and it could gradually be reduced to 521,000—fewer than it had in pre-Korean War days.

The Under-Secretary for the Army, Mr James Ambrose, said that manpower cuts were necessary to free money to pay for weaponry that had been ordered during President Reagan's defence build-up. Mr Ambrose, who leaves his post this month, told *The Washington Post* that decreases in troop numbers must be accompanied by changes in tactics, including the introduction of robot infantrymen and radio-controlled aircraft and armoured cars.

His preference for cutting manpower rather than weaponry is not shared by all the military's leaders, some of whom have complained that the Army is too small to meet its global commitments. It now has 781,000 soldiers, compared with the Vietnam War peak of 1.57 million in 1968 and the high in 1945 of nearly six million. Army strength has not fallen below 600,000 since 1950.

The Air Force, Navy and Marine Corps are also reducing manpower as part of a retrenchment ordered by Mr Frank Carlucci, the Defence Secretary, in order to meet \$33 billion (£18.7 billion) in cuts

required under an agreement with Congress.

The federal Budget for 1989, which will be unveiled next week, is expected to reveal the first part of the biggest military cutback since President Reagan took office in 1981. Unless Congress reverts, his successor will have to make even more cuts to pay for weapons ordered early in the Reagan Administration.

The military budget is being further strained by the \$1 million a day spent on navy operations in the Gulf, and higher bills in Europe stemming from the falling value of the dollar. Pressures to reduce troop strengths in Europe are certain to grow.

Mr Ambrose said that it would have been better if the Administration and Congress had agreed on a steady increase, costing an extra 5 per cent a year, rather than trying to obtain so much money during Mr Reagan's first term.

● **Gay's ruling:** The Government will almost certainly appeal to the Supreme Court against a landmark ruling by a federal appeals court in California on Wednesday, which overrules the Army's ban on homosexuals.

The ruling contradicts previous decisions that allowed discrimination against homosexuals on the ground of national security.

Search for kidnapped UN workers



Palestinian guerrillas in the southern Lebanese city of Sidon searching the boot of an unregistered car at the entrance to the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camp yesterday for two United Nations relief workers kidnapped near by a week ago. Scandinavian diplomats succeeded yesterday in

restarting negotiations for the release of Mr Jan Stening, aged 44, a Swede, and Mr William Joergensen, aged 57, a Norwegian, according to UN sources. They said Mr Mustafa Saeed, a Sunni Muslim leader, had had several contacts with Palestinian officials in Sidon on freeing

the men. Mr Ingemar Stjernberg, the Swedish Ambassador to Lebanon, said that gunmen yesterday seized two Swedish television journalists on Beirut's airport highway soon after their arrival from Paris, then released them. They had been mistaken for West Germans.

Canada to boost its defence spending

From John Best, Ottawa

Canada is to increase its defence spending by 6.2 per cent in the economic year beginning on April 1, in line with an important military re-equipment programme announced last year.

In a budget announcement to the House of Commons yesterday, Mr Michael Wilson, the Finance Minister, said that defence expenditure would rise to \$11,090 billion

(about £5 billion) next year, an increase of \$630 million.

This marks the first step in a programme to fund billions of dollars' worth of new equipment for the armed forces, as outlined in the Conservative Government's defence White Paper unveiled in June. Centrepieces of the programme is the controversial \$8 billion purchase of a fleet of nuclear-powered submarines.

The Government is expected to choose in about four months between competing French and British designs.

Mr Wilson told the House of Commons that the spending increase—which defence officials estimated at about 2.7 per cent in real terms—would start the implementation of the White Paper's proposals "in a manner consistent with fiscal principles".

The budget was otherwise a standard affair, with only a few minor tax changes. It was intended to offer Canadians a rosy picture of the national economy in anticipation of a federal election, which is widely expected this autumn.

Mr Wilson said that as a result of tax reforms that went into effect on January 1, about \$50,000 lower-income earners would pay no income tax.

Civil war in Sudan

Rebels tighten grip as famine threatens Juba

From Andrew Buckoke, Juba

When the Nile Safaris Boeing 707 got to Juba, perching 10,000ft below on a bend in the White Nile, it went into a steep-banked, spiralling dive on to the airstrip.

A normal approach could expose us to the missiles of the Sudan People's Liberation Army, which is increasingly isolating the former southern capital after four years of war against the Muslim-backed Government in the north.

The charter company's Boeing, with British pilot and aircrew, is the only aircraft carrying civilian passengers on the 700-mile run from Khartoum. Sudan Airways staff have refused the bonuses they were offered for the run.

The SPLA has threatened repeatedly to shoot down the plane, like two other civilian aircraft in the war, on the ground that it is carrying military supplies. It is. Behind my seat, the fuselage was filled with racks of green canisters which, I was told, contained artillery ammunition.

Once you get into Juba, however, it is surprising to see that many of the things the SPLA are fighting for are already happening. The Arab-influenced turban and galabiyah of Khartoum are replaced by the western styles of black Africa. Black Africans run the government offices.

People work on Friday, the Muslim holy day, and not Saturday and Sunday. Beer and whisky, though scarce, are on sale in bars and clubs, in open defiance of the Sharia (Islamic) law whose repeal is the SPLA's foremost cause.

On the surface, the town seems like a sleepy colonial outpost, crumbling in the torrid heat. But this image arises mainly because petrol costs £250 a gallon—equivalent to half the average monthly wage—and the sorghum and maize staples are running out.

There are only two main sources of activity in Juba, the regional Government and the relief agencies. The Government has little to govern, much of the hinterland being controlled by the SPLA, and the relief agencies have had no basic foodstuffs to distribute to the 35,000 displaced people in camps around Juba.

A convoy is expected soon on the road from Yei, Juba's only surface link with the outside world, but it will be the first since January 18, and may be the last before the rains start in March, when the supply routes through Uganda and Zaire become difficult, if not impassable.

The average worker, supporting a large family and several relatives who have fled from the countryside, cannot afford present prices, let alone further increases. There are still six months before the next harvest is due and food becomes available from the area around the town.

No deaths from starvation have yet been reported, but when I visited the camp at Kadara, three miles from Juba

on the east bank of the Nile, with a medical team, about 10 of the 60 children we saw showed the thin limbs and swollen bellies of severe malnutrition.

The Government has promised an urgent relief airlift to build up stocks in Juba, but the four to five trips a day made by the Nile Safaris Boeing and a Sudan Airways cargo jet are currently devoted to military supplies. They are not expected to be committed to relief for another fortnight.

The Government has also promised to retake Kapoeta, a small town 200 miles east of Juba which fell to the SPLA early in January. It appears that this military objective takes preference over the provision of food for the south.

The Army has been commandeering lorries from traders in Juba for some time, but when last week it took seven provided by Oxfam for the combined agencies relief team which pools the resources of relief agencies in Juba, aid



workers wondered how long they would be able to distribute relief food even if it arrived in Juba.

The seizure provoked a strong protest from the British Government, which paid for the vehicles, but the Army took over another three on Monday. Government sources said on Tuesday the Army had been ordered to return all of them, but it is not known if it has complied.

The Army is reacting to signs of the SPLA's growing strength and confidence. The fall of Kapoeta followed the costly eviction of the rebels from Kurmuk and Gissan, two villages on the Ethiopian border in Blue Nile province which were taken by the rebels in November. Blue Nile had been considered firmly part of the north, and out of the SPLA's reach.

All these actions have taken place in the dry season, when the Army's greater mobility usually gives it the upper hand. Retaking Kapoeta will be much harder than winning back Kurmuk and Gissan.

There is growing speculation that the wet season will contain the SPLA's cutting the road to Yei and beginning a formal siege of Juba, as well as possibly making conventional assaults on the other two important garrison towns in southern Sudan, Wau and Malakal. They are even shorter of food than Juba. In Wau, the Army, police and tribal militias have been fighting each other.

There are rumours that a 3,000-strong SPLA force has gathered a few miles east of Juba. Heavy shelling heard throughout Saturday morning was believed to be directed at the suspected positions, but no confirmation was available from the Army.

Nobody has much idea what happens further away in the wildernesses of southern Sudan. It took nearly two weeks to confirm that Kapoeta had fallen. Lord Salisbury commented in 1897: "It is, of course, as difficult to judge what is going on in the Upper Nile as it is to judge what is going on on the other side of the Moon." We now know more about the Moon.

EEC plans world food conference

From Michael Dynes, Brussels

Lord Plimh, the President of the European Parliament, yesterday announced plans to hold the first international world food conference in an effort to find ways of correcting global food imbalances.

The two-day conference, scheduled to begin in Brussels on April 7, will be attended by food production experts from the EEC, North America, Japan, Australia, the Soviet Union and the Third World.

The conference will explore ways of reducing agricultural surpluses in the developed countries, and of improving agricultural production in the Third World.

world leaders to take the initiative in solving the world food crisis following Bob Geldof's demand for urgent political action in the wake of the 1984 famine in Ethiopia.

The former president of the National Farmers' Union said: "The world needs a global answer to today's deplorable imbalance between food surpluses in the developed world, and malnutrition and starvation in so many countries which cannot feed themselves."

"If we are to do something about rural poverty in the Third World, the industrialized world must get together to do it, and it must do it with the Third World," he said.

Lord Plimh appealed to

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Kremlin ends psychiatric unit controls by the police

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

Control of the notorious special Soviet psychiatric hospitals, which have frequently been used to punish dissidents who are believed to be clinically sane, is to be switched next month from the police to the health ministry.

At present, the hospitals treating patients judged to have committed "socially dangerous actions" and to be in need of intensive observation are administered by the Ministry of Interior or MVD, and most of the medical staff wear uniforms.

The latest move to end the abuse of psychiatry inside the Soviet Union was announced yesterday by Mr Alexander Churkin, the Health Ministry's chief psychiatrist, who appeared at a news conference — the first of its kind ever held here — entitled "Psychiatry and Glasnost".

Mr Churkin, who attempted

cal personnel of special psychiatric hospitals hold rank in the MVD.

"One of the main complaints about these institutions is that considerations of security and discipline are given complete priority over considerations of the medical well-being of the inmates."

"Inmates are subject to a strict regime... they are under constant supervision. Lights are on all night in the wards. (Inmates) are expected to obey orders given them by any of the staff. This policy is made particularly dangerous and inhumane by the heinous practice of recruiting convicted criminal prisoners from the corrective labour institutions to serve as orderlies in such hospitals."

Under the new mental health regulations, passed by the Supreme Soviet in January but not yet published in full, some of the special hospitals — often situated in bleak former prison buildings — will be closed, while others will be converted into hospitals for violent mental patients in need of strict control.

Moscow — Anatoly Karavayev, former Minister of Motor Transport in the notoriously corrupt Central Asian republic of Kazakhstan, was sentenced yesterday to 13 years in jail for corruption (Christopher Walker writes). He was also ordered by the Soviet Supreme Court to forfeit his personal property. Jail sentences were imposed on 100 other people from the republic for similar offences.

to refute widespread allegations of Soviet psychiatric abuses, said the change in hospital administration was part of a wider reform of the mental health services which will take effect from March 1.

Although western diplomats see the move as an attempt to improve the image of Soviet psychiatry, the official described it as a "logical reorganization" unconnected with alleged abuses.

The change will be welcomed by human rights pressure groups in the West, who have long regarded special Soviet mental institutions — known as SPHs — as among the grimmest forms of punishment used to try to break the spirit of political and religious dissenters.

A chilling report prepared by Amnesty International states: "According to all accounts, not only the security and administrative staff, but virtually all the leading medi-

cal personnel of special psychiatric hospitals hold rank in the MVD. Mr Churkin is a former board member of the World Psychiatric Association, which the Soviet Union walked out of in 1983 at the height of the controversy over the mental treatment of dissidents. He told the news conference, organized by the Novosti News Agency: "Since the people detained in these hospitals have been found not responsible for their actions and therefore not sentenced for any offence, it is the Ministry of Health which should be responsible for their treatment."

In contrast to claims by former inmates that scores of prisoners of conscience are still being held in the special psychiatric hospitals, Mr Churkin said that there were only eight inmates accused of offences under the criminal code normally associated with dissident activities.

"But all of these have been involved in other serious offences, including rape, murder, terrorism or illegal possession of weapons," he added, repeating an argument often used in the past to counter allegations that mental institutions have been used against dissenters.

Iran marks anniversary with attacks



Tagboats fighting a blaze on board the 296,762-ton Norwegian tanker Happy Kari, which was attacked in the southern Gulf by an Iranian frigate yesterday, the ninth anniversary of Iran's Islamic revolution. The attack came as Iran, in a statement to mark the anniversary, vowed to continue its 7½-year war with Iraq

(Nicholas Beeston writes). Thousands of marchers, including war veterans and young radicals, paraded through the streets of Tehran to a rally where Iranian leaders reaffirmed the country's commitment to continue the fight and to resist interference from foreign powers. The celebrations across Iran were in sharp

contrast to those during the past three years, when marches were accompanied by broadcasts from the war front on the progress of the latest offensive. But as Iran's leadership addressed the crowds both Tehran and Baghdad claimed their aircraft had gone into action against enemy targets.

Cypriot presidential election

Dark horse tycoon upsets odds

From Mario Modiano, Nicosia

The most intriguing of the four main candidates in Sunday's Cypriot presidential election is a political newcomer and a millionaire whose main support comes from the island's hard-boiled Communist Party, Akel.

At the age of 56, Mr George Vasilou has been a Swiss medical school drop-out, a factory worker, Hungarian-trained economist, and graduate student in London. He returned to Cyprus in 1962 to build up a consultancy and marketing business which has become highly successful, with interests in 11 countries and a staff of 250.

The picture-window in his private office on the top floor of his marble and glass building in Nicosia affords a breathtaking view of the Pentadaktylos range which buttresses Cyprus's northern coastline, now inaccessible to the Greek Cypriots. Waving towards the large Turkish flag outlined with stones on the mountain slope, he said: "We must build bridges of trust with the Turkish Cypriots. Turkey must be persuaded that a fair settlement is to its advantage."

With four candidates running for presidential office, the outcome of the poll among 350,000 Greek Cypriot voters seems more uncertain than ever. A second round between the top two contenders the following Sunday appears inevitable.

All agree that one of them will be Mr Glavkos Clerides, aged 68, avuncular conservative leader of the opposition Democratic Rally, which polled 34 per cent in the last parliamentary elections. But who will be his challenger?

Greek Cypriots are now prosperous enough to feel uneasy about change. This gives an edge to President Kyprianou, who has been in power for 11 years and is running for a third term.

Under his administration, the per capita income soared from £Cyp890 (£1,100) to £Cyp3,200 (about £4,000) in 1987. The main criticism of the President, however, is his lack of progress towards a solution of the Cyprus problem 13 years after the Turkish invasion of the island. As a rival candidate put it: "He has in him the destructive power of inertia."

His critics maintain that after his clash with Akel three years ago, Mr Kyprianou indulged in large-scale patronage that broadened the power base of his Democratic Party from 19 to 27 per cent, but also leaned heavily on the support of Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister.

Now he probably feels the rug being pulled from under his feet. The unexpected rapprochement between Turkey and Greece is making the Greek Cypriots nervous: they do not know how it can affect their lives.

The main contest will be between President Kyprianou, representing the centre, and Mr Vasilou, who asserts that he has neither political affiliations nor commitments. But the fact that his late father was founding member of Akel in the early 1940s must stand him in good stead. Akel usually influences one out of every three voters here.

Mr Vasilou's long absence from Cyprus may have freed him from the prejudices that run rife on this divided island. But his rivals point to his lack

of political experience and almost invariably denounce him as a crypto-communist or a British agent.

Sunday's result might have been a foregone conclusion if Dr Vassos Lyssarides, aged 67, the president of Parliament whose Socialists have an 11 per cent share of the electorate, had chosen the role of kingmaker rather than to stand himself. He says he did so simply because he dislikes equally the other two non-conservative candidates. "The choice is between cyanide and arsenic," he says.

If Mr Kyprianou enters the second round, Akel will probably support him rather than Mr Clerides, whose party it accuses of having harboured right-wing extremists responsible for the 1974 coup attempt which triggered the Turkish invasion.

The chances of Mr Clerides will increase substantially if the runner-up is Mr Vasilou. The general feeling is that Mr Kyprianou's centrist followers would then support the conservative candidate rather than the man they dub "Akel's capitalist candidate."

Goria the victim as his party's warlords fall out

From Roger Boyes, Rome

Italy, which this week lost its 47th government since the fall of fascism, is under urgent pressure to reform its political system. President Cossiga spent yesterday consulting former heads of state and other political sages in an effort to cobble together a new administration to replace that of Signor Giovanni Goria, who resigned on Wednesday night.

Signor Goria, aged 44, is continuing in office until the President finds an alternative. Yesterday Signor Goria represented Italy at the European summit meeting in Brussels, and his ministers will meet for regular caretaker Cabinet sessions.

The Prime Minister was brought down essentially by his own Christian Democrat Party rather than by the traditional tension between the party and Signor Bettino Craxi's Socialists. A sprawling budget Bill that seeks to regulate every aspect of Italian financial life gave back-bench rebels the chance to side with opposition Communists and push through amendment after amendment.

Signor Goria lost no fewer than 17 votes in the three-month struggle for the 1988 budget, and had to lever the most crucial items through Parliament with six votes of confidence. He says that the root of the problem is the secret parliamentary ballot, which makes a nonsense of party discipline. But more and more, the nature of the crisis seems to be in the structure of his own party. Having been in power since the Second World War, but continually obliged to strike deals with coalition partners, it harbours several competing factions.

In many ways it resembles a group of tribes, each headed by a regional warlord; blood sacrifices are made, marriages of convenience are struck to heal feuds. In the run-up to the Christian Democrat congress in the spring, the loose consensus between the party warlords has broken up, and Signor Goria is the principal victim of the dispute.

The main problem seems to revolve around the party sec-

retary, Signor Ciriaco de Mita. He has served two terms as party leader and has mastered the art of *partitocrazia* — government that is exercised through party headquarters rather than Parliament.

If there is a row in the government coalition, Signor de Mita (who is not in the Government) picks up a telephone and talks with Signor Craxi (who is also not in the Government). Together they work out a deal, and the Prime Minister is informed.

The Goria Government, which lasted a creditable 200 days, has had enough. Signor



Signor Goria: Faction fights behind the political scenes. Goria was overcome not only by back-bench rebels but also by a central paradox of Italian politics: that to reform the system he has first to reform the system.

An end to the strict regime of proportional representation would, for example, make for fewer and presumably stronger parties, as well as more stable government. But to introduce the necessary changes, he would have to gain the support of the smaller parties — who would be voting for their own destruction.

If this were the only logical problem facing Italian politicians, they would indeed be a happy breed. But in the meantime, they are fighting tribal politics with a distinctly cannibalistic tendency. As one Christian Democrat, Signor Nino Cristofori, put it so graphically yesterday: "The successor to Signor Goria is destined to be skewered."

Leading article, page 13

The Hoskyns Annual Report & Accounts



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KENCO
It's what best friends share on Valentine's day

Hunt for Bophuthatswana opposition leader as security forces mop up

Pretoria says ANC may be connected with coup attempt

Mmabatho (Reuters) — South Africa said yesterday that the outlawed African National Congress may have been linked to an attempted coup in the nominally-independent black homeland of Bophuthatswana as its forces helped to round up dissidents there after crushing the revolt. Mmabatho, the sleepy capital of the tiny homeland that is best known for its entertainment resort of Sun City, was meanwhile quiet.

Mr R.F. "Pik" Botha, the South African Foreign Minister, speaking in Cape Town, said the opposition leader Riekoe "The Rock" Molebane-Metsing, whom the army had planned to install, had fled and was being hunted.

Mr Botha said President Mangoshe was in good health. "He is in full control. His Government is back in power with his police force and a substantial section of his Defence Force," he told reporters.

Security forces had rounded up 150 dissidents after the coup attempt, which claimed

three or four lives, Mr Botha said.

Mr Botha defended South Africa's actions, saying it had been asked to help by a legally-elected government which had been overthrown by force. He said Pretoria would do the same under similar circumstances in a country such as neighbouring Botswana.

Asked about media reports linking the coup and the ANC, Mr Botha replied: "There is a suspicion because of certain elements of the UDF and ANC." The UDF (United Democratic Front) is South Africa's biggest anti-apartheid organization. Pretoria often accuses it of being a front for the exiled ANC.

Mr Botha's assertion was immediately rejected by Mrs Winnie Mandela, wife of Mr Nelson Mandela, the jailed ANC leader.

"The ANC has nothing to do with the events in the puppet state of Bophuthatswana," she told a news conference in Johannesburg.

"Bophuthatswana is of no consequence to the ANC, it is a non-issue."

The coup attempt was quelled within hours by South African troops in armoured personnel carriers. Soldiers leapt from helicopters to rescue President Mangoshe from rebel soldiers, who had threatened to pour petrol over him and burn him alive unless he resigned.

The coup leaders cited widespread corruption as the main reason for their action.

In Mmabatho, combined units of South African and Bophuthatswana police rooted out small groups of mutinous soldiers hiding in government buildings.

Bophuthatswana, whose independence is recognized only by South Africa, draws much of its revenue from the Las Vegas-style resort of Sun City.

Two successive governments of another homeland, Transkei, were toppled in military coups last September and December, but South Africa did not intervene.



South African troops in Mmabatho guard soldiers involved in the attempted coup after their leader had fled.

Vietnam to free 6,400 political enemies

Hanoi (AFP) — Vietnam has announced the release of 6,406 people held in jails and re-education camps, including 1,014 officers and supporters of the former South Vietnamese government.

The Deputy Information Minister, Mr Phan Quang, said that 159 supporters of the former government remain in the camps after the latest releases to mark next week's lunar new year.

More than 500 of the 1,014 prisoners to be freed today are former members of the South Vietnamese army, including 11 generals, 121 colonels and 35 Catholic, Protestant and Buddhist military chaplains.

Execution halt

Huntsville, Texas (AP) — Calvin Williams, aged 27, a murderer who had vowed to fight his executioners, won a stay 90 minutes before he was to be put to death by lethal injection. It was his fourth execution date.

Chinese veto

Peking (AFP) — China rejected a request by Japan and South Korea for an urgent UN Security Council meeting over the sabotage of the South Korean airliner that killed all 115 people on board.

Somalia plea

The EEC and the US appealed to President Siad Barre of Somalia to show clemency to eight prisoners sentenced to death on charges of treason allegedly committed in 1982.

Athlete jailed

Adelaide (AP) — Reg Spiers, a former Australian javelin champion who avoided a Sri Lankan death sentence for drug smuggling, was jailed for 10 years for conspiring to import hashish.

Official's guilt

Peking (AP) — Mr Ding Guangrong, Minister of Railways, took responsibility for three rail crashes which killed 141 people, and asked the Government to punish him.

£1m hijack

Hong Kong (AFP) — Five men hijacked a van loaded with gold in the Kai Tak airport tunnel and fled with gold and cash worth HK\$15.4 million (£1.1 million).

Battle over Okinawa suicides

From David Watts, Tokyo

The last desperate days of the Battle of Okinawa are being re-fought in court, in an attempt to have the Japanese Government recognize the full import of history.

In a heart-rending resurrection of one of the most tragic episodes at the end of the Pacific war, a university professor recalled the day he killed his mother and siblings after a "suicide order" from the Japanese Imperial Army.

His testimony was given to a two-day hearing of the Tokyo district court being held at the battle site, the latest stage in the long-running campaign between academics and the Government over the proper presentation of history in the country's school textbooks.

This case is one of three being brought by Professor Saburo Ienaga, emeritus pro-

fessor of education of Tokyo University, a tireless proponent of telling Japanese history as it really was.

Professor Ienaga's textbooks were screened by the Ministry of Education, and the reality of the mass suicides were purged from his account. He is claiming two million yen (about £9,000) from the Government.

Professor Ienaga's section on Okinawa was amended to read: "Okinawa people died fruitlessly such as in mass suicides, but not a few were killed by the Japanese Army."

The court made the extraordinary move to Naha in Okinawa in recognition of the importance of the dispute over what really happened when hundreds of victims are supposed to have committed suicide rather than be captured.

Professor Shigeaki Kinjo, of Okinawa Christian Junior College, who was 16 when he survived the ordeal, told the hearing: "I thought at the time killing loved ones was an act of love, so that they would not face capture by the enemy. Because I loved them I had to kill my mother and younger siblings."

He said mass killings and suicides began a day after the Japanese rounded up the residents of Tokashiki Island on March 27, 1945, the day after the Americans landed.

He said that after reports that the military had issued a "suicide order" some killed themselves with hand grenades while others killed family members with razors or sickles.

Professor Masahide Ota, of the University of the Ryukyus,

said that at least 298 people were killed by the Japanese Army. Another 824 died in mass suicides, 483 of whom killed themselves under the orders of the Japanese Army, according to research in Okinawa and at the National Defence Agency.

The professor believes that two thirds of the victims died after June 23, 1945, when the fighting was almost over, and suspects the Army murdered them.

In his book *The Pacific War*, Professor Ienaga says that in the Okinawa campaign 50,000 US troops were killed or wounded while Japanese forces suffered 110,000 killed.

The battle and the fact that many Okinawans still do not feel part of the Japanese nation means that even today feelings remain strong.

Bangladesh poll deaths rise to 110 as rivals fight it out

From Ahmed Fazl, Dhaka

The death toll in violence which has swept Bangladesh during local government elections rose to 110 yesterday. The flood plains became virtual "killing fields" as supporters of rival candidates for village mayors shot one another and slit throats.

Reports said yesterday that another 7,000 had been injured in the worst election violence in the country's 17-year history.

The extent of the disturbances has unnerved the Government of President Ershad, which plans a crucial parliamentary election for March 3. The main opposition groups, the Awami League and the Bangladesh National-

ist Party, are boycotting the national election.

Sarghad, the influential daily, said that voting had to be stopped in over 3,000 of an estimated 20,000 polling centres in 64 districts as armed gangs overpowered police guards and took ballot boxes. One election officer was stabbed to death.

Earlier reports said that 85 people had died and that 5,000 others had been injured. The official news agency put the death toll at 39.

About 135,000 candidates contested the offices of more than 4,000 mayors and 39,000 councillors in the village *parishads* (councils), but the electoral commission failed to announce any results until last

night because of the rioting.

The worst violence happened in Munshiganj district, about 30 miles east of Dhaka and a stronghold of the ruling Jatiya Party, where nine people were shot dead. Seven deaths were reported in Chittagong province, while five others died in the Southern Hill province.

Others were killed in bomb blasts and in arson attacks. A local government party leader was clubbed to death in central Mymensingh and the body of a candidate found hacked in a rice field in the coastal district of Bhola.

Officials said that clan feuds, blood rivalries and land disputes dominated the 10-day electioneering campaign.



DEREK HATTON: MY SIDE OF THE STORY

"Now I tell my side of the story, of Liverpool, Militant, the Labour Party, my family—and the media."

Beginning this Sunday exclusively in The Sunday Times, Derek Hatton reveals why he despises Neil Kinnock as the 'worst leader the Labour Party has ever had'.

GCSE

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS IN THE SUNDAY TIMES THIS SUNDAY.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
The perfect Sunday

SPECTRUM

Ninety years of a passion in red

With his distinctive prancing horse emblem, Enzo Ferrari has roared through every decade of this century. Now, on the eve of his 90th birthday, Roger Boyes looks back at the ghosts and glories of a lifetime in the fast lane

There is not a straight line in a Ferrari. Look at it closely from any angle, sideways, face on, or crouched down like a car thief, and it gradually dawns that the machine is completely asymmetrical; not a matching plane in sight. The same could be said of Enzo Ferrari, the grand old man of the racing car industry, the inventor, designer, engineer of Italy's fastest and sleekest cars.

He is tall, ungainly, frequently rude, bullies his friends, has a monumental ego and, if you survive all that, considerable charm. Next Thursday, February 18, he celebrates his 90th birthday, 90 years of crashing through life.

That life has been the history of the internal combustion engine; and Ferrari's passion is for the race track. It began at the age of 10, in 1908, when he accompanied his father and elder brother, Alfredo, to the Bologna circuit. There he saw Felice Nazzaro win at what seemed to be an unbelievable speed: 60 miles an hour.

His father ran a metal-working shop outside Modena, modifying axles for the railway industry. He wanted Enzo to be an engineer, a respectable professional, not a grease monkey. Enzo had other ideas, passing through the phases of wanting to be an opera singer and a sports journalist, and ending up committed to the infant sport of motor racing. When his father expanded the workshop to include car repairs, the issue was settled. By the age of 13, Enzo had learnt to drive.

At the beginning of the century the automobile had the same kind of romantic compulsion as space travel in the 1960s: a sense of new frontiers, and new heroes. Italians, in Tom Wolfe's phrase, had the right stuff — Nazzaro, Vincenzo Lancia, Giuseppe Campari, Tazio Nuvolari. Knowing that he wanted to be a racing, and not a military hero, the First World War was something of an irritation.

Conscripted into the Mountain Artillery, he told his colonel that he was a skilled mechanic and, with typical military contrariness, spent most of the war shoeing pack mules. Then he fell ill and was invalided out of the service.

He tried unsuccessfully to find a job with Fiat, but struck lucky as a test driver with CMN, Costruzioni Meccaniche Nazionali.

This was the start of the passenger car revolution in Europe. After the war, entrepreneurs were busily adopting light truck chassis for passenger vehicles. It was a good time for test drivers and a good, if rugged, time for racers.

Competition had a different feel about it in those days. In 1919, Ferrari and his close friend, Ugo Sivocci, set out from Milan to take part in the Targa Florio race in Sicily. They had to drive their racing car the length of Italy to get to the track. Ploughing their way through the deep snow of the Abruzzi Mountains, they were attacked by hungry wolves and had to fend them off with a revolver (standard equipment for racing drivers then).

They arrived in Palermo in time for the start, but a petrol tank promptly dropped off. Enzo made rapid repairs. He was beginning to catch up with the rest of the field when police stopped him and made him wait until a local politician had finished making a speech in the market square. Yelling insults at politicians, Ferrari managed to finish, but as he remembers ruefully, "the timekeepers and spectators had already left on the last train to Palermo".

Ferrari's racing career improved. After one victory at Ravenna, in 1923, an old man pushed through the cheering crowd and gave him a charred piece of fabric, a black prancing horse on a yellow background. It was the last remnant of the Italian fighter ace Francesco Baracca who, after shooting down 35 planes, died in flames during the war. The man was Baracca's father, and Ferrari, deeply touched, adopted the symbol for all of his cars.

There is something in Ferrari's abrupt manner that reminds one of great horse trainers. Certainly, the equine imagery is there. When, in 1929, he set up his own Ferrari team under the umbrella of Alfa Romeo, it was known as a



From 0-90 at full gallop: Enzo Ferrari and the fighter ace's emblem, and (below) in 1923 at Monza, Ferrari (far left) with Nicola Romeo, founder of Alfa Romeo and Giorgio Rini, who sold Ferrari his first racing car

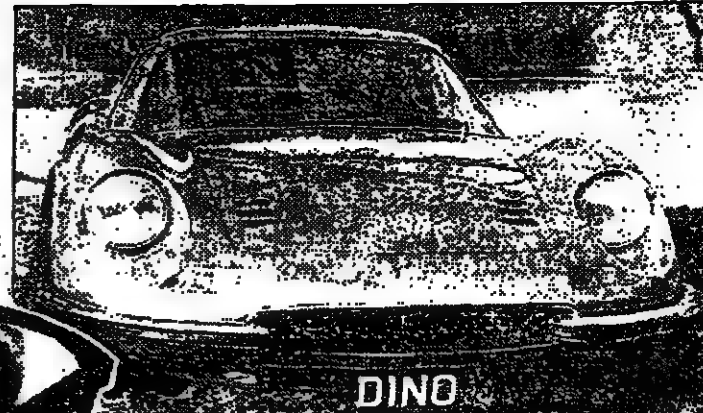
Scuderia — a stable. His cars were described as steeds, his drivers as jockeys. Alfa supplied the machinery, Ferrari mechanics tuned and modified, and the jockeys won some of the best races in the world.

By this time, Ferrari himself was no longer to be seen at the wheel of the racing cars. First illness, and then, in 1932, the birth

of his son, Dino, persuaded him to hand over to younger drivers. The break with Alfa and the decision to make his own cars was a typical bit of Ferrari biography. First, Ferrari's protector gets nervous, wants quick results, tries to interfere, and finally gives orders. At this point, Ferrari walks out. It has happened again and

again. After the Second World War, Ferrari cars had begun to make a real mark on the racing world. At the same time, the sculpted sports cars were being eagerly snapped up by heads of state and film stars. But to support the racing, Ferrari again needed a commercial protector.

Negotiations were opened with



DINO
Wounds: a Ferrari Dino, named after the son who died in 1956

Ford in 1962, and almost from the moment the Americans walked in, it was plain that there was to be an epic struggle between the car producer as a bureaucratic monolith, and the car producer as an eccentric lover of engines.

Under the proposed agreement, Ford would essentially run the sports car division, with Ferrari keeping a 10 per cent stake, while Ferrari would run the racing cars. In trooped the huge team of Ford lawyers, accountants and hatchmen. Ferrari had only one adviser. Every three minutes, one of the Ford team would leave to ring Detroit. Ferrari thought they had bowel problems.

Ferrari has a standard Italian metabolism, getting up late and working late, happy to have dinner at midnight. The Ford men were 9 to 5 creatures, and completely exhausted.

Eventually, when Ford began to stipulate what races Ferrari should win, the old man exploded. "The answer the Ford men gave me," Ferrari recalls, "was calculated to humiliate. They said: 'But Mr Ferrari, you are selling your company — you cannot pretend to dispose of it as you wish.'"

Nowadays, Ferrari's commercial protector is Fiat. And the old man is happy enough, stalking his Maranello works as a laird patrols his estates. To some extent, Ferrari lives with his ghosts. All retired racing drivers have lost friends on the track, but Ferrari has lost more than most. Almost every 90-year-old has survived his school-mates, but Ferrari seems to have been more marked than others. When his son Dino died of muscular dystrophy in 1956, he was deeply wounded; some of the zeal for victory left him. His confidants have all been taken by the track, by the two wars, or by age and disease. Ferrari's chief designer says he is as "closed as a walnut", but he cries easily at death, or opera, or a track victory.

He tries to bridge the gap with other generations, but only values

and engines really unite them. The company is run by his adopted son, the off-spring of a former mistress, and he is content that after his death the cars will still be controlled by a Ferrari.

He is an isolated figure, isolated even from the racing that is his passion. On a wide-screen television, he watches the races, receiving briefings by telephone from his team manager; he has not been seen at the track on race-day since Dino's death. The combination of autocratic style and limited information does not make for an altogether happy court. There are considerable jealousies.

Enzo Ferrari has an important say in who should be brought in, but cannot protect them if the team performs poorly. It is difficult to assess his impact on strategy nowadays. Certainly the company is sensitive to his prejudices and has postponed some important decisions out of respect for the old man.

The fact that Ferrari cars are not plastered with sponsors' badges is his decision (although Marlboro pays his drivers' massive retainers and in return receives a discreet shield on the sides of the cockpits). There is a feeling within the company that commercial sponsorship should be reviewed, but there will be no open discussion of the issue in the founder's lifetime. In any case, Enzo's instinct is often right: Italian racing red has become as effective as any trademark.

In celebration of his achievements, it was announced this week that the Pope will in June visit Ferrari at Modena. Ferrari himself has not been to Rome since 1935, and does not feel the lack. The car is all: he leaves his villa and covers the short distance to the factory and the test track, patrols the shop floor, his wide nose twitching, his dark glasses protecting him from the curious, and he touches his machines, softly, softly.

In a Rotten cause

Rotten Row, in London's Hyde Park, bridleway and leafy promenade to bygone smart sets, is approaching its 300th anniversary and, with luck, the beginning of a revived sporting role. John Evelyn recorded in 1690 that a "straight new way" to London had been cut through the park. Its first function was as a royal carriage road, but by the late 18th century it was the place for the fashionable to ride and — more importantly — be seen riding.

By the late 18th century it fulfilled much the same purpose that the King's Road in nearby Chelsea does today but with the emphasis on wealth, privilege and equestrianism. Sheridan ridiculed the "gayer spark" of the 1780s who sped across town "anxious yet and timorous too! — his steed to show/The hack Bucephalus of Rotten Row".

Neill Mitchell, chairman of a committee set up to celebrate the tercentenary in 1990, said: "A young man would show off his horse there, perhaps of a kind new to Britain, as he might his sports car nowadays."

Mitchell, one of a dwindling band of riders in the park, and his committee, hope to usher in a new era, starting with an appeal for £150,000 to restore

A new era could be on the way for the bridleway of the smart set — in time to celebrate its 300th anniversary



Hyde Park's horsey heyday: Rotten Row seen 100 years ago

two miles of cast-iron railings to the Row: the originals were removed for scrap during the Second World War. "Until then, Hyde Park contained miles of decorative railings," he said.

"Since it lost its social prominence after the war, and many of the stables around it closed, Rotten Row has been taken very much for granted."

"But it is a first-class sporting facility which could be made available, through more

stabling, to a broader section of the public. Four-and-a-half miles of bridleway in the middle of a city is quite a remarkable thing. To set it up from scratch would be a multi-million pound undertaking. As it is, we have the raw material." Three of the original 1793 bollards, which supported the railings, survive on the Row and the plan is to set up another 2,000.

The road was first made in 1690 to run from Kensington Palace — which had been taken over as a country residence by King William III and Queen Mary — to Westminster. At first the Row was a haunt of 17th century muggers, but after a Hyde Park highwayman was hanged for the murder of a woman who swallowed her wedding ring rather than surrender it to him, the road was lit by 300 lamps suspended from the trees.

Before it was superseded by a better road to the south, the carriage way is said to have been known as the Route du Roi, later corrupted to Rotten Row. Another theory is that the name is based on the German word "Rotteran", to muster. But Henry B. Wheatley, the author of *London Past and Present*, published in 1891, poured scorn on "absurd etymologies" and declared: "The most probable is the apparent one — that it is called after the rotten soil of which it is composed."

John A. Hill

FINDINGS

A weekly series on research

EGYPTOLOGY

Israeli archaeology continues to surprise. At Tell Abu Salikh, some 35 miles south-west of Gaza, is a huge mud-brick building with many inner chambers, perhaps as much as a kilometre square. Petrie, the first excavator, took it to be a temple; but an Israeli scholar has now identified the structure as an enormous hyper-market, a fortified trading-station, possibly for the sale of wine, oil and other perishable foodstuffs (*Israel Exploration Journal* vol 34). This could well be the "sealed town of Egypt", a commercial centre which the Assyrian King Sargon is known to have taken by force in 720BC. *John Kay*

METEOROLOGY

A warm thought for mid-winter: air-conditioners, all turned on at peak times, are a real problem for American electricity generation companies, but studies at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in California suggest that trees, judiciously planted, might be the answer. Boosting urban shade by 25 per cent could reduce annual domestic energy use by up to 40 per cent and cut the peak demand by 20 to 40 per cent. *W.J. Burroughs*

GEOLOGY

Colonization of the barren Martian surface may be feasible if a new theory suggesting that water exists just below the surface is correct. By studying the debris patterns on the slopes of Martian volcanoes, geologists at Lancaster and Hawaii universities have concluded that explosive eruptions must have taken place, charged with water and carbon dioxide. The ground water brought to the surface by volcanic eruptions was subsequently lost from the Martian atmosphere, along with the carbon dioxide. The new findings suggest that there are probably large quantities of water up to 1.5km below the surface, still waiting to be tapped. *Simon Eley*

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 1487

ACROSS
1 Opposed (6)
4 Very happy (6)
7 Chinese dynasty 1279-1368 (4)
8 Newcastle disease (4,4)
9 Hollyhock genus (7)
11 Burial vigils (5)
12 Aviation doctor (6,7)
15 Heavy Burgundy (5)
16 Barkless dog (7)
20 Lincoln/Exeter Roman road (5,3)
21 Chinese nurse (4)
22 Aimless, drifting (6)
23 Alloy joint (6)

DOWN
1 Stand-off half (3,4)
2 Score (5)
3 Taciturn remark (5)
4 Cheek (4)
5 Lentigo (7)
6 Mythological trance (7,5)

10 Pallid (5)

11 Clock parts (5)

13 Chisel-edged tooth (7)

14 Not either (7)

15 Sicilian crime org. (5)

17 Chasm (5)

18 Wanderer (5)

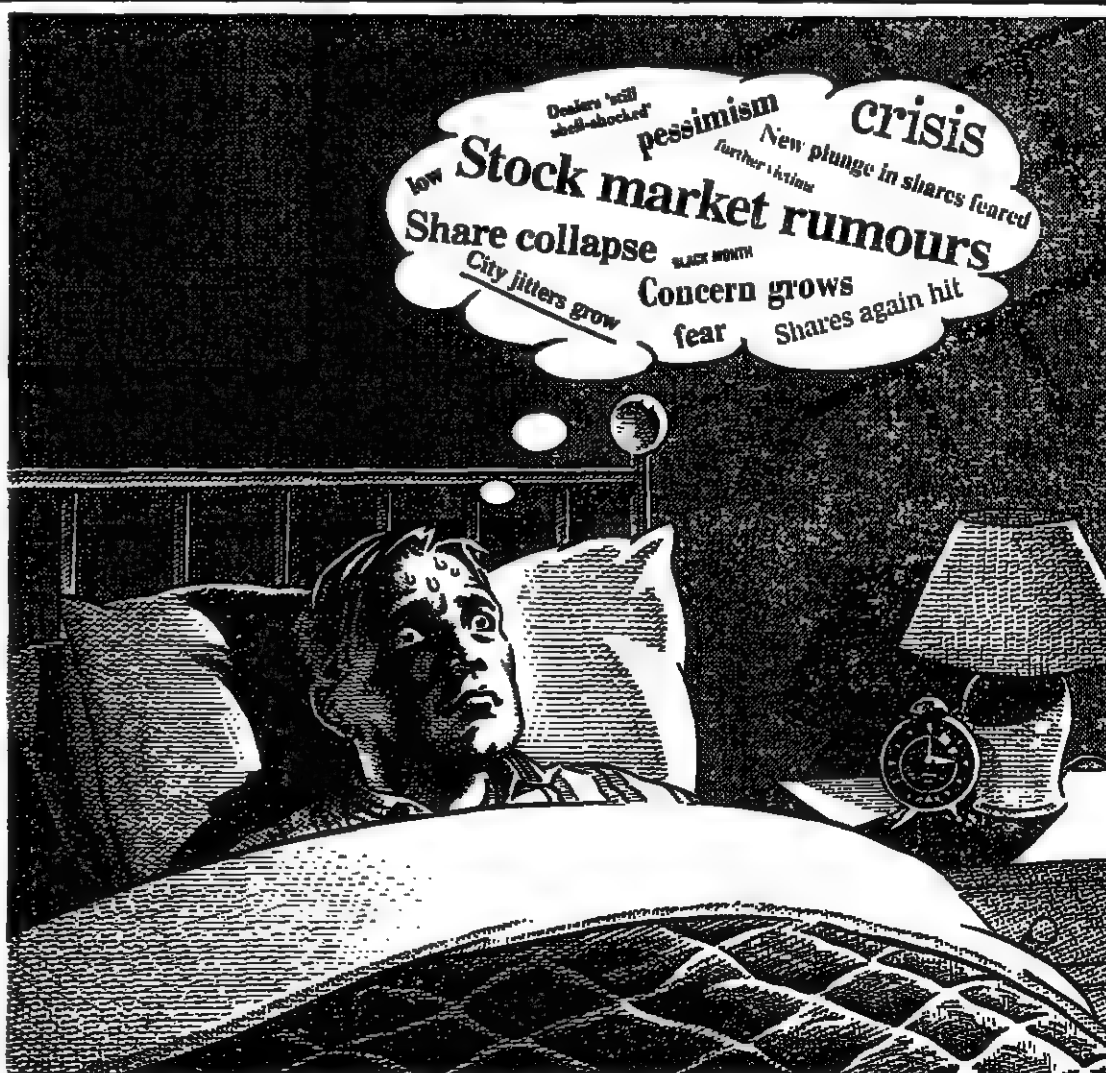
19 Strike sharply (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 1486

ACROSS: 1 Pinnacle 4 Waiver 9 Comma 10 Lanes 11 Hope

12 Deviate 14 Tin Pan Ally 18 Apparel 19 Akin 22 Fills 24 Eminent 25 Events 26 Angler

DOWN: 1 Pace 2 Mango 3 Dissembler 5 Awe 6 Vantage 7 Rotten 8 Dardanelles 11 Hit 13 Valuation 15 Impulse 16 Yen 17 Baffler 20 Ideal 21 Stir 23 Set



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A RADICAL PAY ROUND

The Government's increased emphasis on greater flexibility in setting public sector pay is welcome as far as it goes. For some years now the pay review bodies have been urged to take account of supply and demand as well as other factors in making their recommendations, though this has not always been evident in their reports. Progress in rewarding merit in the Civil Service has been painfully slow. Now is the moment for a further push forward.

Pay structures throughout the economy are gradually changing - which is partly the cause of the current industrial unrest. There are other more traditional causes such as the lure of increasing company profits and the reduced fear of unemployment as the numbers out of work fall. In the National Health Service there is a growing sense of frustration which goes deeper than pay. But many of the pay issues underlying today's disputes are very different from those of the 1970s.

In a period of high inflation the priority for the workforce is to make sure it does not lose ground - either in real terms or in relation to other groups of workers. The emphasis is overwhelmingly on more money. In the late 1980s when inflation, though far from conquered, has been fairly steady in the 3-5 per cent range for the past few years employers have felt able to try and negotiate pay deals which provide the right incentives and deal with recruitment and retention.

At Ford this has led management to try and agree a three-year settlement rather than the usual twelve-month affair which puts company and unions in the position of beginning the next set of negotiations almost before the last have been completed. Three-year agreements are standard in many industries in the US and in a more settled economic environment could also become more widespread in Britain. The growth of multi-national companies and the growing impact of Japanese work practices is bound to break down some of the barriers between British labour traditions and those overseas.

In other industries, and particularly in the public sector, the pressure for flexibility has been focused on wider differentials between workers with different levels or different types of skills. Last year's teachers' settlement took some small steps towards increasing the rewards for more senior teachers. The Civil Service, though still reluctant to recognize the differing needs of its many different arms, has introduced merit awards on a small scale and has been forced to pay more for a few scarce skills such as computer specialization. Now there is strong pressure on the Nurses Pay Review Body also to recognize the differing pressures in different parts of the nursing profession by varying rates of pay.

Wider differentials between different skills, rewards for merit as well as seniority, pay structures which recognize that some workers are in short supply while some are in over-supply are all features of the pay climate which have been gaining ground. They need to develop a good deal further.

In the corporatist climate of the 1970s it was thought natural to negotiate national rates for national industries. The 1980s have seen a return to more flexible arrangements and localized markets. An economy in which controls on pay and foreign exchange have been scrapped, contracted out services are beginning to be preferred to those in-house, and small business has thrived, also needs to exchange a monolithic approach to pay determination for one which responds to the laws of supply and demand.

The tax encouragement given to Profit-related Pay may help in a small way. But the Government has to set an example in the public sector as the employer precisely where the monolithic approach is most strongly entrenched. It has made a start by abandoning pay comparability in the Civil Service and by urging the review bodies to place recruitment and retention at the top of their criteria. It must now carry pay flexibility further forward.

SCIENTIFIC ILLITERATES

Yesterday *The Times* reported on an international survey of the scientific attainments of schoolchildren. At 10 years old, out of 11 countries surveyed, only children in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines scored worse than their counterparts in England.

One survey does not prove a crisis - but it certainly suggests a problem. If today's primary pupils turn out unfit for the twenty-first century, that will be a heavy indictment of officials, politicians and parents alike for failing to provide their children with the wherewithal for life.

Science is the source of the future. That familiar motto of our age bears carrying into public policy at all levels. Recognizing the central place that scientific work holds in our society does not, of course, justify any one particular level of public support for science or a set number of teachers (though it surely ought to give mathematics, science and technology pride of place in the new national curriculum). It does, however, provide a benchmark against which the signals given by politicians on such matters as scientific research can be judged.

This week the message is ambiguous - even discouraging. The Secretary of State for Education and Science published his response to the Advisory Board for the Research Council's recommended budget for science over the next three years. He makes it hard to conclude that the government sees scientific research occupying a central place.

The Board told Mr Baker that the United Kingdom science base was "at a watershed", in reply the government gave the impression that the stream it intends to follow leads not just to a shrinking volume of research but to research contraction of an accidental and unplanned kind.

Mr Robert Jackson, the higher education minister, has taken to referring disparagingly in his speeches to the "science lobby" as if Fellows of the Royal Society had no capacity for disinterested thought about the progress of their disciplines or the applications of specialized knowledge in our technological society. In other societies thinkers and researchers of the quality produced in British laboratories and

university departments merit praise, not meers.

Applied to the ABRC, the slur simply does not work. Sir Francis Tombs of Rolls Royce, Sir Walter Bodmer of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, and Professor Sir Sam Edwards, Mr Cecil Parkinson's scientific adviser, are like the other members of the ABRC, experts and experienced administrators of science.

In the face of anger from some academic quarters, they have pushed through a policy of concentrating research in a small number of university centres, grading universities according to their capacity. The ABRC is simultaneously trying to re-shape British science to focus available money on the best, and to push the balance of work towards industrial application - while also finding space for new concerns, notably research on AIDS.

In the midst of this managerial task, the ABRC was justified in asking the Government for two things. One was severely practical. To establish university research centres, new laboratories have to be created and good people wooed; a small amount of extra money is needed.

The second was political. The ABRC said that the financing of science in this country was at a crossroads: it was up to ministers to pick a route forward. The ABRC simply reserved the right to characterize any reduction in the volume of scientific activity as prejudicial to the country's economic and social development, as it put it.

Mr Baker has responded satisfactorily on neither count. He is not providing the wherewithal to ensure that the reshaping of the science base is accomplished in an orderly way. Nor is he openly facing the reduction in the volume of research suggested by the accounts.

In his letter to Sir David Phillips, chairman of the ABRC, he teases with the prospect of "greater priority" next year - provided "we are able to construct a coherent strategy". That qualification is unfair. The strategy is in place. The ABRC deserved the Secretary of State's backing.

ITALY'S ABSENT GOVERNORS

Signor Giovanni Goria, the Italian Premier, was the lame duck at the European Summit yesterday. He had important positions to defend, above all on Italy's increased contribution to the EEC budget, but he has become that sad aspect of Italian life: a leader without a government.

Signor Goria, according to a number of opinion polls, is the Italian politician most revered by Italian mothers. At 44 he was the youngest Premier (now the youngest ex-Premier) since the war, and the one who looked most in need of protection. The maternal instinct, however, has not been enough to protect him from the backbench revolt in his own Christian Democrat party.

Under cover of the secret parliamentary ballot, the backbenchers have been siding with the Opposition Communists to throw out countless items from the 1988 budget. Signor Goria's hopes to be more than an interim leader were dashed and his resignation on Wednesday night has propelled the country into a new crisis of succession.

Parliamentary reform is a pressing necessity for Italy. The country is rightfully proud of its economic progress but with such development must come political responsibility. The Western Summit in Venice last summer hovered uncertainly because it was not clear whether another lame duck Premier, the veteran Amintore Fanfani could play host. Last autumn President Cossiga cancelled at very short notice, an important State visit to Britain because of yet another government crisis. Italy owes it not only to itself, but also to its

European neighbours to overhaul the political system. Reform, of course, needs strong leadership but this is not entirely impossible in the Italian context as Signor Bettino Craxi proved in 1983-86.

Reforms must concentrate on streamlining the strict Proportional Representation which has given too much leverage to tiny parties. At the same time the tradition of strong party control over affairs of state, the so-called *Partitocrazia*, should be critically reviewed. And the practice of secret parliamentary balloting that has proved such a boon to Signor Goria's enemies, should be changed.

But parliamentary reform by itself is not enough. The failures of government are not primarily the failures of parliament as an institution. What is really needed is to give muscle to the Prime Minister. In almost all European democracies the power of Prime Ministers has been growing, but not in Italy.

Signor Goria's cabinet list was more or less presented to him on a plate by the leaders of the parties, especially the Christian Democrat chairman, Signor Ciriaco de Mita. The patronage network is too intricate for the Premier even to hire or fire his ministers.

Italy has a complicated agenda for the rest of the decade, including the shaping of a new energy programme. The economy, not helped by the latest budget debate, is advancing in fits and starts. It needs more careful attention. But before the physicians-cum-politicians can cure the country, they must heal themselves. Italy, a country that often thrives without a government, needs its governors again.

Society lacking moral guidance

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust
From the Vicar of Croydon
Sir, Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, is to be congratulated for his focus on the place of morality as a vital ingredient in our multi-faith national life, in the context of increasing crime statistics. Those of us who serve on police consultative groups or Home Office crime-prevention initiatives know well the increases, both geographically and in all categories of recorded crimes.

While worthy and unremitting energy has been expended in the above groups, we have become totally obsessed with prevention as the only concept open to us. Vast sums of money have been spent on visible policing, social education and environmental issues, but with almost no effect. No current consideration has been given to causation except superficial political answers.

Everyone knows why the crime figures are running free, but all our committees of experts have no knowledge whatever, it seems, about how to handle issues of values, ethics or morality. Perhaps the observation of the Home Secretary will now give crime prevention and police consultative groups the insight and resolution to tackle unprecedented crime statistics, with a basic, obvious item on their agendas.

Yours faithfully,
COLIN HILL,
The Parish Office,
Croydon Parish Church,
Church Street, Croydon, Surrey.

Vatican in wartime

From Dr Michael Stratton
Sir, Your Rome correspondent's view ("Wartime Pope's resignation letter", January 30) that there was no real threat of German invasion of the Vatican, was not shared by those who lived there at the time.

The British Minister to the Holy See - D'Arcy Osborne, who was inside the Vatican for the duration of the war - feared this possibility on many occasions and curtailed his activities accordingly. He took calculated risks: it was he who set up negotiations between Italy and the Allies for an armistice, communicating with London from August 17, 1943, using his personal cypher; the armistice was declared on September 8.

The Germans moved in almost at once and everyone there thought that the Vatican would be taken. Osborne burnt his sensitive documents - and whilst Italian troops were putting up resistance in the Rome suburbs, the Swiss Guards were posted as a symbol of defence, but were under the strict orders of Pope Pius XII not to fire. In the event the German detachments halted at the frontier of the Vatican City State.

In June, 1943, the BBC had broadcast advice to escape prisoners in Italy to try to make the Vatican. After the armistice thousand of ex-prisoners were loose in Italy and if a couple of hundred had followed this advice the Germans would have occupied at once. Osborne set out to ease their plight and established a highly successful network of billets and escape routes, assisted by the redoubtable Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, the so-called "Scarlet Pimpernel of the Vatican".

All this time there was an underlying fear that the High Command would put an end to these activities by occupation, but the German Minister to the Holy See, Ernst von Weizsacker, was personally against this and did nothing to uncover the organisation.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL STRATTON,
Culver Farm,
Old Compton Lane,
Farnham, Surrey.

Uncharitable action

From Dr Randolph Glanville
Sir, On Comic Relief day I gave a lecture in Western Germany. Naturally, I presented the audience with notes and invited my generous hosts to contribute to Comic Relief. Naturally, they contributed.

Imagine, then, my delight upon returning home to discover that I could find no local bank that would accept their offering, being made, as some of it was, in coins.

Obviously, the concept our bankers have of free banking is very partial, being dominated by convenience rather than compassion.

Ultimately, a special arrangement was reached with the Girobank in Liverpool. Coming to this arrangement cost a fortune in time and phone fees, neither of which relieve a starving people, but which do feed already adequately, possibly excessively, full coffers.

Yours faithfully,
RANDOLPH GLANVILLE,
Portsmouth Polytechnic,
School of Architecture,
King Henry I Street,
Portsmouth, Hampshire.

Uneasy on the ear

From Mr John E. H. Bennett
Sir, Your correspondent (February 5) refers to the clatter of dogs awaiting her in a Lancashire cotton town in the 1920s. This is in sharp contrast to those who listened to the linen spinners going by in Belfast in the 1890s. *The Irish Textile Journal* of 1893 reports:

and the half-spinners pace along by their side (i.e. the linen spinners) with their little bare feet making no

Second thoughts on electronic tags

From the Director of the Prison Reform Trust
Sir, It is always difficult to argue against an experiment, but it is not hard to predict the problems which would be encountered in any trial programme of electronic tagging of offenders (reports, February 9, 10; leading article, February 10).

Given the principled opposition of all grades of probation staff, where would one find a probation service willing to take on the experiment? Where indeed will one find a large enough pool of young offenders with regular access to a telephone? And, given the unhappy experience of most new "alternatives to custody" and the lack of evidence that the courts actually seek a power of house arrest, what is the justification for putting at risk successful and positive measures like community service and probation day centres?

Yet, leaving aside the practical and ideological objections to tagging, there is one other reason for the "chorus of dissonance" which, as you rightly say, has greeted the idea. This is the profoundly unsatisfactory way in which the idea has been "floated" in the press over the past months. Successive stories in the newspapers that the Government is about to introduce tagging have subsequently been met by denials from the Home Office press office.

The stories, it seems, have been leaked in such a way to afford "plausible deniability" to the Home Secretary. It may be noted that Mr Hurd has been extremely evasive on the issue (indeed, when challenged to present his views during the second reading debate on the Criminal Justice Bill, he deliberately chose not to do so).

The sooner the Government issues a Green Paper or produces some detailed proposals the better. If new non-custodial measures for offenders between the ages of 17 and 21 are under consideration it is about time a proper public discussion of all the options is initiated.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW, Director,
Prison Reform Trust,
59 Caledonian Road, N1.

Abolition of ILEA

From the Principal, City & Guilds of London Art School
Sir, From this less advantaged position south of the river I can only view with dismay the announced abolition of the ILEA (report, February 5).

The education and practical experience it has provided in music of all kinds unequalled, in my view, anywhere else in the country. Can one envisage the inner-London boroughs, however well intentioned, being able to provide the resources needed for the admirable and expert bands and orchestral groups that have become famous world-wide? Many children of primary and secondary level must gain intellectual as well as manual education through these enterprises.

In my own field I would like to draw attention to one of the

Reform of NHS

From Mr Laurie Pavitt
Sir, The minister responsible for the NHS is reported as referring to "the health-care industry" (my italics). This epitomises the Government's economic dogma in its handling of hospitals since 1979.

Conservative administrations have presided over three radical changes of organisation: the disastrous Keith Joseph reorganisation; the Patrick Jenkin reshuffle of that monstrosity; and then the Fowler years implementing the Griffiths and Rayner reports to commercialise and industrialise management and services.

The pursuit of profit and productivity in factories replaced personal skilled engineers with conveyor-belt semi-skilled workers. The loss of job satisfaction and pride in personal skill was

Question of colour

From Mrs Penelope Reid
Sir, I would like to persuade Mr Howard (Word-watching, February 3) to accept a prettier explanation of the word "Isabella" than that offered by what he so rightly calls "absurd folk mythology".

The heroic Queen Isabella of Spain was a great horsewoman and established a famous stud of the sort of showy, Arabian and Barb-bred animals for which Spain later became renowned. For all monarchs of that era the horse provided a mobile throne and for this purpose needed to be of a spectacular colour if possible.

Isabella favoured creamy chestnuts with pure white manes and tails, a colour hard to breed and

Seat of the mighty

From Mr R. Cooper
Sir, With reference to MPs on TV (report, February 10), perhaps instead of impotently calling "Order", Mr Speaker should be empowered to directorily shout "Cut".

Yours faithfully,
R. COOPER,
Durham Lodge,
167 Coudson Road,
Old Coudson,
Surrey.

Archbishop hits at Mr Gummer

From the Archbishop of York
Sir, Mr Gummer's intemperate attacks on me (report, February 11) make sad reading beside Mr Hurd's constructive attempt to improve co-operation between Church and State.

I am accused of advocating "freedom to promote homosexual practices." Even the most superficial reading of my speech in the House of Lords on clause 28 of the Local Government Bill makes it clear that my concern was to question the wisdom of allowing central government to move in the direction of controlling ideas by means of legislation. This is a profound moral point, which was well received in the House, but which unfortunately Mr Gummer seems incapable of grasping.

Co-operation between Church leaders and politicians requires a willingness actually to listen to one another. Historians on the *Jimmy Young Show* may be personally satisfying, but in the long run are unhelpful. Yours faithfully,
JOHN EBOR,
Bishopthorpe,
York.
February 11.

ON THIS DAY

FEBRUARY 12 1906

The Dreadnought class of battleship was of revolutionary construction. Its powerful turbine engines produced great speed; its armament consisted of 10 12-in. guns. The keel of this prototype was laid down in October, 1905; it was completed in December, 1906. That it came into being was due to the vigorous efforts of Admiral Fisher, First Sea Lord

THE KING AND THE DREADNOUGHT

LAUNCH OF THE NEW BATTLESHIP.

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

PORTSMOUTH, Feb. 11.

... The moment had now come for the performance of the christening ceremony, which was preceded by a short religious service. A specially bound copy of the service was presented to his Majesty, who had taken his station close to the rostrum from which he was to launch the vessel. The "service to be used at the launching of ships of his Majesty's Navy" was read by the Rev. A. P. Hill, Chaplain of the Dockyard. It begins with Psalm CIVIL, v.23, "They that go down to the sea in ships and occupy their business in great waters; these men see the works of the Lord and His wonders in the deep."

... Finally the Bishop [of Winchester] advanced and with uplifted hand gave his blessing to the vessel and all who should sail in her. Thus ended a very simple but most impressive service.

A few minutes had still to elapse before the King could launch the vessel, as the last blocks upon which she rested had yet to be knocked away, and until this was done she could not move.

While this operation was in progress Sir John Fisher and Admiral Barry pointed out the main exterior features of the vessel to his Majesty, who was much interested in her appearance and admired her fine lines and great length and depth. As he came to the edge of the platform he was recognized by the crowds below, who set up a hearty cheering, which his Majesty graciously acknowledged. Admiral Barry then presented to his Majesty the managers of the constructive and engineering departments of the dockyard, and, this formality over, the King advanced to the little knot of naval attaches, shaking hands and conversing with each of them in turn, and also with the Bishop of Winchester.

The eagerly awaited moment had by this time arrived, the last blocks had been removed, and nothing now remained to be done but for the King to cut the cord which restrained the vessel. His Majesty ascended the dais in front of the bows, and taking in his hands the flower-hidden bottle of wine, which was presented to him by Admiral Barry and Mr. Mitchell, one of whom stood on either side of him, he dashed it against the ship. The force of the blow was insufficient to break the bottle, cushioned as it was by the bouquet of flowers. A second attempt, however, was successful, and all that then remained to be done was to cut the cord...

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11.

The building and launching of the Dreadnought have aroused an interest here which is both professional and political. ... That such a ship could have been built so quickly and so secretly astounded naval experts... the *New York Times* says:-

"The battleship... is a symbol of the effectiveness... the sincerity, and the power of the alliance between Great Britain and Japan. Had it not been for that alliance the Dreadnought would never have been built, for she is the direct outcome of the naval lessons learned in the Russo-Japanese war..."

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Question of class

What prejudice did Gary from Ruffwood Comprehensive entertain about his forthcoming week at Rugby School? "There's gonna be tiffs," he volunteered in exemplary Brookside. "It's going to be tough?" prompted the housemaster, doubtless thinking that the hirsute prole would benefit hugely from bracing cold showers and a lick of C.C.F. discipline. Gary had to repeat himself.

40 Minutes: Changing Places (BBC2) needed more of such impromptu misapprehensions to dispel its resemblance to a model exam question. But a group of sixth formers from one of the first purpose-built comprehensives to one of the older public schools; the following week, deliver a corresponding clutch of Rugbyans to Kirby, Lancashire for a short, sharp culture shock.

This neat idea lent itself to the mirror-image approach. A Philosophy and Politics class at Tom Brown's Alma Mater heard of Aristotle's influence on the stiff upper lip; the Economics teacher at Ruffwood launched into a North-South rant which the visiting toffs politely conceded had been "very useful". The Ruffs abhorred the regimentation of public school life; the Ruffs condemned comprehensive discipline as lax.

Hungry for mile-high disparities which never emerged, the camera was absent during what must have been a vintage class skirmish, when the Ruffs were handed tennis rackets and balls, only to have their untutored efforts mocked by the Ruffs. Again, the family homes of the Kirby boys may have provided a jolt to the visitors' aesthetic sensibilities but were scarcely lampen. Surveying the town centre young Jolyon observed: "None of them are actually starving."

The worst that life can throw at either group will be as a mild headache compared to the lot of their coevals in Ethiopia. The second part of *This Week: The Permanent Emergency* (Thames) had high-profile contrasts falling into its lap.

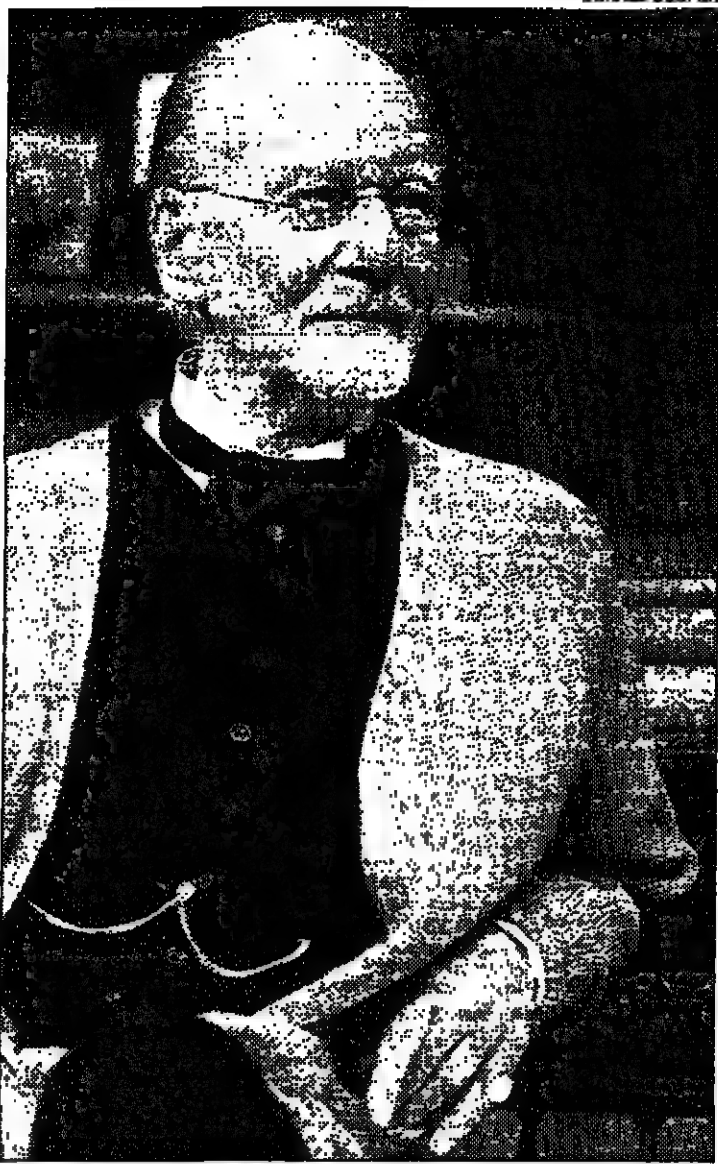
The poorest nation on earth devotes more than half its budget to maintaining the largest army in black Africa; while accepting the West's massive subvention in the form of food aid, the Marxist government insists on its right to denounce "imperialism". With the logic of a textbook read backwards, they plan widespread collectivization in areas where perpetual drought and mushrooming population will soon leave precious little to collectivize.

The fact that these programmes have bracketed the admirable Comic Relief effort may be a coincidence of scheduling, but their doomy projections are a salutary bucket of cold water. Even £10 million is a drop in the ocean—or, in this case, desert.

Martin Cropper

Platonic perfection

DONALD COOPER



John Gielgud reworks his characteristic magic as Sir Sydney Cockerell

THEATRE

The Best of Friends
Apollo

Readers of Alec Guinness's *Blessings in Disguise* will be familiar with the figure of Sir Sydney Cockerell, long-term curator of Cambridge's Fitzwilliam Museum, and a noted collector of people, including Bernard Shaw and Laurence Olivier, Mother Abbess of Stanbrook Abbey.

Cockerell, who was inclined to keep his friends in different boxes, decided to bring these two together, thus prompting the 25-year correspondence which is the basis of Hugh Whitmore's play.

But instead of producing another Shavian duologue along the lines of *Dear Liar*, Mr Whitmore had the inspiration of including Cockerell as well. The effect is to transform a quickly platonic courtship into a trio on the universal and theatrically unexplored theme of friendship, with Cockerell (who published a book called *The Best of Friends*) as the leading character.

The essence of friendship is that it undercuts matters of talent and social position exemplified in this case by a lasting bond between two powerful figures driven by their own versions of the Life Force, and a retired curator who, whenever alone, confesses himself a string-pulling second-rater with no clear purpose in life.

It is in this role that John Gielgud returns to the stage after nearly a decade, and reworks his characteristic magic in a performance that is at once totally objectified and an act of self-portraiture.

Its prevailing quality is extreme modesty, expressed with old school good breeding, and a lack of envy. But without exceeding this framework he produces an enormous range of contrasting colours.

There is Cockerell, like a schoolboy, escorting Dame Laurence on her one London outing, or wickedly conjuring money out of museum benefactors.

In spite of occasional memory lapses, Gielgud gives the impression that he is saying the first thing that comes into his mind, often wishing he could bite off his tongue afterwards. It may have been a life on the sidelines, but Gielgud leaves you in no doubt that he found it "very interesting", and that he views death with chirpy equanimity.

Meanwhile, we have followed the loving and sometimes stormy relationship of his two protégés. There is one openly dramatic episode, where Dame Laurence, mortally offended by the Shaw fable of the *Black Girl*, severs the friendship, and leaves Shaw to write a heartfelt letter on the occasion of her supposed death.

The curtain then rises on the sight of a robustly surviving Abbess, and Shaw splutteringly caught out in a direct expression of his feelings. Otherwise, none of the material is conventionally dramatic. The friends exchange gifts, describe foreign visits and explain their domestic routines. There is no conflict, no suspense, and the effect is rivetingly touching and funny.

James Roose-Evans, the director, achieved a comparable effect in *84, Charing Cross Road*. It depends on indefinable abstractions like truth and affection; and, in the case of letter exchanges, on a sure grasp of the psychological space between characters as a guide to stage movement.

Ray McNally and Rosemary Harris perform a marvellously tactful duet: Miss Harris falling into mischievous banter with "Brother Bernardo" without ever overstepping the limits of piety; McNally, more virile and less egotistic than the Shavian legend, demonstrating the tango, but always asking to be remembered in his correspondent's prayers. These three are poles apart; hence the solace of the title.

Irving Wardle

East German
baritone Olaf Bär
(right) is in
London for three
recitals which
were sold out as
long ago as last
August. He talked
to Hilary Finch



A blithe spirit

The young East German baritone, Olaf Bär, is in the middle of all three of Schubert's song-cycles. *Die schöne Müllerin*, *Winterreise* and *Schwanengesang* this week at the Wigmore Hall. Five years ago, when the 26-year-old Bär made his first London appearance, it seemed as if he had come from nowhere. No recording as herald, no hype; just another debut. Now, after a handful of Lieber recordings and a Harlequin in the Royal Opera's *Ariadne auf Naxos*, he is being hailed as the new Fischer-Dieskau.

In a manner of speaking, that is. Bär is both aware of, and amusedly unperturbed by, the inevitable cross-reference and the ubiquitous critical comparison (London and West Germany are the worst offenders). He has already built up his own very prudent defences. He makes a point of not listening to Fischer-Dieskau: "I have never heard his *Schwanengesang*, or his *Winterreise*. It's so dangerous! Of course I will listen. But only when I have found my own way, had my own experiences—above all, experiences in communicating with my audiences. Then I shall see if my way is right or wrong."

Bär emphasizes, though, that he learned much from working with his regular accompanist, Geoffrey Parsons, and through him, indirectly, from the experience of other singers. "But in the end you can see what Schubert has written, and you have to do it. Nothing else!"

Is it quite so simple, though? Bär has to admit that he finds Schubert a greater test than Wolf, Schumann or Brahms. "What's so impossibly difficult is the easy melody! Wolf writes in every expression mark, every nuance; but with Schubert you have to find the way yourself. You have only to sing it; but you can't sing it! That's why *Schöne Müllerin* is so much more difficult than *Winterreise*; the lightness of the melody, the repeated verses, the more even

rhythms. Peter Schreier agrees!"

Was Schreier a mentor? Bär spent nine years as a boy in the Dresden Kreuzchor listening to his singing. "So, yes, it was of course for me a *Vorbild*, a first impression. I find his way of singing is closer to me than that of Fischer-Dieskau—though I have to say that more and more I disagree with some of the things he does!" He has had no lessons with Schreier, has always worked entirely alone interpretatively. "But he gave me a tip once: When an audience is coughing you must sing so *piantissimo* that they have to listen to you. I tried it two days ago at the Dresden Semperoper. It works!"

Winterreise, which Schubert wrote just before his early death, is seen by Bär primarily as a young man's cycle. "And I'm so glad I can bring to it the experience of being young."

Sliding off the sofa onto the floor, and roaring with laughter at the slightest excuse, Bär seems far from the angry or despairing young man. His hunger for life had manifested itself in his determination to keep operative engagements running parallel with recital work: it always was that way from his first student *Finis guardiera* to last year's Count in Glyndebourne's *Capriccio*. There'll be Gaglianone in a new *Costi* at Aix this summer, the Count in Dresden's *Figaro*, Papageno in Vienna in 1989 and Don Giovanni at Glyndebourne in 1991.

For someone so obviously down to earth about his timetable, and very much in touch with his own vocal energies, does the strain of sudden discovery and floods of engagements not pose a danger?

"Just now I am doing too much. I know it. I have to learn it for myself, though, and learn how to organize my own schedule. It's a very dangerous time for a young singer these days. You have to say no! It's a very good word, you know."

Hell for leather

OPERA

Orpheus in the Underworld
Coliseum

Two and a half years on David Pountney's staging of *Orpheus in the Underworld* remains basically a visual show. The operetta is muffled up to the eyebrows in Scarle, great layers of him, and the problem is that from time to time Offenbach disappears from sight.

Gerald Scarle was there at the current revival to make sure that his cut-outs of the opera bourgeoisie, with their shining togas and bearded eyes, were properly in place. And they were. He presumably checked that the outrageous costumes still had their original sparkle. And they had. And he probably noted to his satisfaction that this was still a very English approach to Offenbach.

Only the multiplicity of suspender belts, corsets and combinations give a hint of Parisian sauciness. All the rest—Pountney's staging, Seoo Wilson's translation now

flecked with a few strictly contemporary references as the D'O'ly Carte used to do with G & S, and Scarle himself—goes for the red-nosed rudeness of a seaside postcard. When humans are turned into insects, as happens once or twice, they will use the extra feelers for insouciant purposes. When the gods go down to hell via a devil's mouth, they are bound to be expelled via the obvious orifice.

It is all thoroughly enjoyable, raucous and bawdy, even if it does not always make a lot of sense. Fortunately, Terry Gilbert's choreography has great panache and he has brought in some unalloyed fat ladies to swell, quite literally, the ballet girls. And Lesley Garrett is on hand to lead class to proceedings as Eurydice. She began a little too desperately, as anxious as the production itself to give the audience not a dull moment. But the soprano and the sense of comedy began to show through and it was with a very Offenbachian swirl of the hips that she led the company into the final can-can.

Among the newcomers to the cast is John Brecknock, back to the ENO after five years absence, as a thoroughly

naive Pluto. He was using his tenor carefully, especially in the upper register, but it is a pleasure to hear the Brecknock dialect again in a work where the words need an airing. Clara Moll (Cupid) and Hilary Westera (Diana) both made a more modest impression: they need a lesson or two from Bonaventura Bottone's tap-dancing Mercury in the over-the-top playing demanded.

Some of the singing elsewhere was below par and the fault of the better-skillet production is its refusal to relax and take the audience by the ears rather than the eyes when Offenbach releases one of his gorgeous melodies. The chief sufferer here, as Paul Griffiths noted after the first night, is John Styr's "Rol de Beotie" couplets, which are turned into a spanking number.

Paul Daniel conducts with crisp energy, if without the Elder flair. As the Paris Opera has, by all accounts, just turned *Orpheus* into a long-winded *Opéra* in Offenbach's adopted city, perhaps the Brits know a thing or two about him after all.

John Higgins

CATHERINE ASHMORE

Venice evoked

CONCERT

BBC SO/
Pritchard
Festival Hall/
Radio 3

To the countless musical portraits of Venice, Anthony Powers has added several more, intricately superposed in his 20-minute orchestral piece *Stone, Water, Stars*, which had its first performance last night.

The title is itself a Venetian evocation, taken from Adrian Stokes, and interpreted by the composer as a signal for three kinds of music: symphonic, fluid and preordained, given by some system. On a different level of abstraction, the city of stone and water passages is mirrored in music which has its own labyrinths; and Powers proves himself a creditable maze-maker in sections where brief ideas are deformed and transformed as they pass through the orchestra (an emphatic brass passage keeps popping up with almost irritating frequency).

There are also, apparently, memories of Venice's musical past. In his introductory talk, Powers spoke intriguingly of passages where musical history went into rapid rewind in the space of a few bars, taking

one back through Britten, Elgar, Wagner, Chopin and Vivaldi to Monteverdi. However, in the event these references were neither so rapid nor so clear, and the work's "tonal" slow movement seemed a slough of relapse and despondency after the carnivalesque capriciousness of what had gone before.

This fast music, the brittle skeleton of a sonata allegro, is the second of six sections that make the work, on yet another level, a single-movement symphony. Before it comes a slow introduction, beautifully aqueous, though generally it is the faster music that is the more impressive, not least because Powers's gift for quick movement is rare. So is his skill in orchestration, displayed with almost wanton prodigality in this music of lively dances and multitudinous bell pealings.

Some of it does not quite come off: the violins, strenuously worked, are sometimes covered by exuberant happenings in the rest of the orchestra, and there are passages of rather tired romantic rhetoric. One may also wonder whether the music justifies the lack of any deeper unity or urgency beneath the layers of reflection. But the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir John Pritchard revealed at least a work of tantalizing promises.

Paul Griffiths

Niggles still

Jenůfa
Covent Garden

When Yuri Lyubimov's Covent Garden production of *Jenůfa* first saw the light of day, in 1986, it was pointed out on this page that there were some irksome moments. In this revival they remain just as niggling.

We do not really need the banal symbolism of scattered rose petals, snowflakes and spring leaves at the beginning of each act; nor the twirling flats, one side white, the other black, nor the flashing lights when the drama becomes anything like fraught. On the other hand, we do need Lyubimov's ability, despite such indulgences, to strike at the very heart of the drama. The best thing about his vision is its canny combination of a comparatively naked stage, very much in what will surely become known as the late 20th century tradition, with distinctly uncontroversial action. You cannot, it is true, do much with Czech peasants other than make them behave and look like Czech peasants. But Paul Herson's simple designs, based on the rising trap door principle, mark the grave at the front of the stage as the visual focal point from which the opera's twin themes of fate and, eventually, hope emanate, enveloping all.

The principal female singers who appeared in the first run all return. Ashley Putnam repeats her formidable Jenůfa, the victim of circumstance whose forced, desperate relationship with Laca turns into one of genuine depth at the last. Hers is a performance of immense strength and pas-



Jan Břichkov's Grimes-like demeanour with Ashley Putnam

tenor. But it would scarcely be appropriate if he were that, since Laca spends most of the opera as an insanely jealous misfit. Břichkov's modified power, his gawky, Grimes-like demeanour, and his rumpled clothing all seem peculiarly apt for the role. Arthur Davies's well-practised Steva (he has sung the part before, for Welsh National Opera) is exactly that as he descends from swaggering, drunken confidence to heartless rejection and, eventually, to the abyss of tedious respectability.

Christian Thielemann, who becomes General Music Director at the Nürnberg Opera in September, and whose British opera debut this is, conducted what at first was a slightly ragged orchestra and an even more undisciplined chorus, though things improved as the evening wore on.

Stephen Pettitt

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ACROSS THE COUNTRY NOW

FRIDAY PAGE

Fathers' day at last

Who will mind the baby? Jane Bidder reports on changes in the customs of awarding custody

When Malcolm Peters started fighting for custody of his two children, aged seven and 12, his solicitor told him not to bother. "He said mothers nearly always won unless they had done something pretty dreadful. Even my boss summoned me into the office to say I hadn't got a chance."

Peters, a 49-year-old senior technical officer from Portsmouth, told his boss to mind his own business and changed solicitors. In court, he explained to the somewhat bemused judge that although his estranged wife was not unsuitable, he honestly believed that he was the better parent. "I was often the one who'd help the children with homework or cook their meals while my wife sat in the sitting room," he says.

To his surprise, the judge did not question him about his personal life ("Anyway, I didn't even have a girlfriend then") but was more concerned with who would look after the children when they came home from school. "He was quite impressed by the fact that my parents were around to do this and help out generally," he says. "And to my relief, he gave me custody while my ex-wife has access every other week."

Eight years later, Peters is now advising other fathers on custody rights in his role as chairman of the Watlingtonville branch of Gingerbread, the organization for one-parent families. It is a task which is gradually getting easier.

Statistically, the trend towards awarding custody to fathers is already making marks. Maria Maclean, a fellow of Wolfson College, Oxford, and author of *Maintenance after Divorce*, points out that there has been a 10 per cent increase in the number of fathers who have won custody in the last eight years. The Law Commission's recent report on custody law also notes that it is more "common for fathers to be granted custody of older children" (presumably because they do not require such specialized mothering) and that those fathers showing "competence in caring for their children and who had gone to some length to organize good child care arrangements, now stand a much better chance of obtaining custody than they did a few years ago."

So important is child care back-up that according to the Children's Legal Centre many fathers are advised to hire a nanny before court proceedings. A man often has more earning power to afford this than his estranged wife.

According to Jenny Kuper, solicitor for the CLC, "if a mother's material circumstances and mode of living were not as favourable for child-rearing as the father's, then the latter might well get custody."

"For example, a mother might lose points for having a long history of boyfriends and a father gain points if he was going to re-marry and provide a more stable upbringing," Kuper says. "Similarly, I wouldn't be too surprised if a judge was put off a mother who lived in a one-bedroom flat. And some judges would be more



Fortunate family: Martin Lightbown, who was awarded custody of his children after his wife had left, with Hannah (front), Ashley and Alex (right) — "I was amazed at how easy it was"

sympathetic to a religious father than an agnostic mother." Where you live can also make a difference. Dr Martin Richards, a lecturer in social psychology at Cambridge University and co-author of *Divorce Matters*, points out that "more south-eastern courts favour dad compared with northern judges who are more traditionally swayed towards mum."

Whatever the circumstances, there is no doubt that more men now feel encouraged to fight for their offspring and the CLC has already noticed more mothers "cleaning up their lifestyles" before court hearings. At the other extreme are women who leave their children. Abandoning ship is not always as selfless as it sounds, according to Match (Mothers Apart from Their Children). "A mother might not want her child to give up the life he's used to, such as the house or school," Carol Blinick, London co-ordinator, says. "She may well think it's kinder to leave the children there than to take them off to a grotty bedsit."

However, selfish motives can apply to both sexes in the custody war. In America, where even more fathers are winning, sceptics (usually female) accuse fathers of trying to obtain custody in order to avoid maintenance payments. The matrimonial home is a perk which accompanies the children.

In Britain, Mediation in Divorce, which advises unhappy couples on how to part with as little acrimony as possible, finds that although many fathers start off by wanting custody,

they are eventually deterred by the practicalities of single parenthood before the case gets to court. Some fathers get custody of their children without fighting for them, like 39-year-old Martin Lightbown from Poole in Dorset. Lightbown runs an upholstery cleaning business and has four children aged between six and 17. "My wife left us without a quail and even now, has little contact," he says. "At first I didn't apply for custody because I knew it was a big responsibility. In the end I did, because my solicitor advised me to. I was amazed at how easy it was. The judge was mainly concerned with how I'd look after the children after school. As I'm self-employed, I can often work hours to suit myself and I also have good neighbours and friends who help out. It doesn't always work out so neatly, however."

The other day I came across a deserted husband who didn't want custody, but the judge insisted that he should have the children because he had the marital home."

Mark Smith, a sociology lecturer from Guildford, applied for custody of his seven-month-old daughter, although he was not married to the mother. His girlfriend, who did not want the child, suggested that Smith, who is 32, should apply. "The magistrate ordered a probation report on me, to check my circumstances were suitable, before granting me custody," Smith says. "I'm sure my so-called respectable profession gave me an advantage."

Some people do not think that this

'He gave me custody while my ex-wife has access every other week'

A time and a place for everyone

When a woman's place is out at work what happens to her priorities when she finds herself 'outplaced'?

At an age when she might have been expecting a gentle stroll down the road to retirement, Phyllis Dunnham found a new career: counselling those who fear their own retirement might have come too soon.

Dunnham, now in her late fifties, is a senior vice-president of the New York branch of the management consultants Drake Beam Morin (DBM) and calls herself an "outplacement specialist", a mystifying job description which simply means that she offers advice and practical help to executives who have been fired, laid off or dismissed from their jobs.

Clients referred to DBM are offered space in an office, with a phone and secretarial services, the appearance of employment may be maintained for as long as it takes them to find another job — one person was there for 38 months; the average is four to five months. In addition, they will be offered psychological assessments (a favourite among women) to move away from the rat-race pressure to smaller cities and to cut corporation ties altogether by forming their own companies, despite the high risk of failure among small US businesses. "Women are becoming fed up, but I have enough of the idealist in me still to hope that we can permeate and change some of the ways in which top management functions. We're not there yet, and I'm not sure we're going to arrive. But we are striving to change the organization from within rather than bailing out."

Dunnham's is a delicate task and one which has allowed her an insight into the real importance of work in women's lives in a city where careers frequently come before marriage and a family. Dunnham, who in the past five years has counselled 184 clients, 89 of whom were women with sal-

aries ranging from \$40,000 to \$100,000, is well qualified to comment on the disillusionment that "outplacement" may bring.

Most of her female clients are single or married with no children, and "termination", as Dunnham puts it, gives many cause to rethink their priorities. "I'm hearing more and more from single women: 'I have knocked myself out, I have contributed — but to the detriment of my personal life. I want a job that will give me time to develop as a person and have a private life.'"

The tendency, therefore, is to make a sideways switch — which Dunnham does not encourage. "One phrase I use is: 'Keep your head in the clouds and your feet on the ground'. I remind them that a lateral move may not be the only move which would give balance to their life. They could move up in a different organization or environment and still achieve it."

Hence there is an increasing trend among women to move away from the rat-race pressure to smaller cities and to cut corporation ties altogether by forming their own companies, despite the high risk of failure among small US businesses. "Women are becoming fed up, but I have enough of the idealist in me still to hope that we can permeate and change some of the ways in which top management functions. We're not there yet, and I'm not sure we're going to arrive. But we are striving to change the organization from within rather than bailing out."



Specialists: Phyllis Dunnham, and members of DBM

She has worked with several women in their twenties and thirties, but most of her female clients are in their forties and fifties. "If you believe age is going to be an obstacle, it becomes one," she says, and her own experience adds weight to the theory. A widow with two sons and two grandchildren, she spent most of her life as a high school teacher, then principal, with a two-year stint as an officer commanding 100 men at the naval training centre, in San Diego, California.

She completed what she calls a three-year apprenticeship at a small outplacement firm in New York before

the way it is." Married clients are counselled with their spouses to help them adjust to the loss of income as well as the emotional trauma. In Dunnham's experience, the majority of husbands are supportive; a few, however, are either impatient for their wives to be "placed" in a new job or resentful of the freedom they have to explore career alternatives.

Nine of the 35 US offices of DBM are now headed by women. In the UK office, two of the seven consultants are female. Jo Close has been working there for almost two years as a "career consultant" and in that time has counselled only one woman. Her current caseload, most aged in their forties, includes a national sales manager, managing director and treasurer, who are all men.

None of the clients with whom she deals, she stresses, have been fired: they have all been "outplaced" — redundancy, Close says, is an awful word. Here, too, the outplaced are offered an office and secretarial services, paid for by the companies which have made them redundant: British clients' average counselling period is four to six months.

Unlike Dunnham, Close sees no difference in the needs of her male and female clients and gets angry at the suggestion that women, especially those who have invested all their energies in a career, are hit hardest. While she allows that New York and London are different, she maintains that "redundancy is a shattering experience for anyone. Age, marital status and sex do not come into it."

Donna Leigh-Kile
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No ethics at risk

I was leafing through the American edition of *Cosmopolitan* magazine when I discovered a feature article headlined "Reassuring news about Aids". Read on, I thought. "You are a healthy, vital American woman", the article began, "and just when you've decided to have an active love life, everyone tells you that sex kills... all about you, policemen, firemen, health-care workers are donning gloves, masks, outerspace wear... Where does all this panic leave you?"

The answer, according to *Cosmopolitan*, is OK. The vital American woman is between the sheets, undeterred and ready for action. The article points out that the disease is presently pretty much confined to those high risk groups about whom we all know more than we ever wanted. Still, the British Government, like most Western governments, seems intent on acting as if heterosexuals were the primary victims. Isn't it intriguing how convoluted our thought processes have become in discussing a straightforward matter of public hygiene?

Next week, phase two of the Government's Aids campaign will launch television commercials aimed at the heterosexual community. Why? In the short term, explains Kaye Wellings, senior research officer (Aids) at the Health Education Authority, with a somewhat enigmatic turn of phrase, "we need to alert the public to a potential problem which is not yet apparent, which may not be for some time, and whose likely outcome is unknown."

Over at Whitehall, the riddles continue. This week it was reported that the DHSS is considering anonymous blood testing of random hospital patients and pregnant women. The results of these tests would never be known by the patients or their personal physicians. The concept of identifying people with a contagious and fatal disease and then not telling them seems a rather curious approach to public hygiene. The reason given is that random tests are necessary to trace the emerging patterns of Aids, and that telling people they have the illness raises "ethical" problems. That is when the penny dropped. Surely, I thought, there is an ethical problem

here, but it is not the one being raised. It is quite possible that Aids will make the crossover from the homosexual community to heterosexual society. But the key question we should be asking ourselves is whether it is ethical to refrain from taking actions that may prevent or at least slow down and diminish the chances of this happening. At the moment the debate seems wrongly focused. The concern seems to be about "discriminating" against people with a deadly

disease, rather than protecting the interests of those who do not yet have it.

Not being a doctor, I cannot pretend to offer specifics on how to do this. But certain universal principles seem clear enough. The first one has to do with the virus, not least of all to themselves. These people need to know simply because they cannot act decently until they do. Most people, upon recognizing that they are potentially infectious, will voluntarily refrain from those activities that allow transmission.

The next step is to isolate carriers to whatever extent is necessary. Clearly Aids is not the sort of disease that requires sending people to leper colonies, although it may mean its sufferers cannot work in professions like dentistry or in which food is handled. We should be preventing anyone

From Mrs Mary Bourne, *Thorndon Approach*, Herongate, Brentwood, Essex:
The two-house, or commuter marriage, would certainly be impractical for most couples ("Deadline for wedlock?", *Wednesday Page*, February 3), but the two-bedroom marriage would not, especially when the children have left home.
Not for a Portfolio Accumulator would I go back to those nights of waiting for a late film-watching husband to come to bed, and having come to turn out the light, and having turned it out to refrain from snoring.



BARBARA AMIEL

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It seems mad to remove the stigma of a disease by allowing its spread

disease, rather than protecting the interests of those who do not yet have it.

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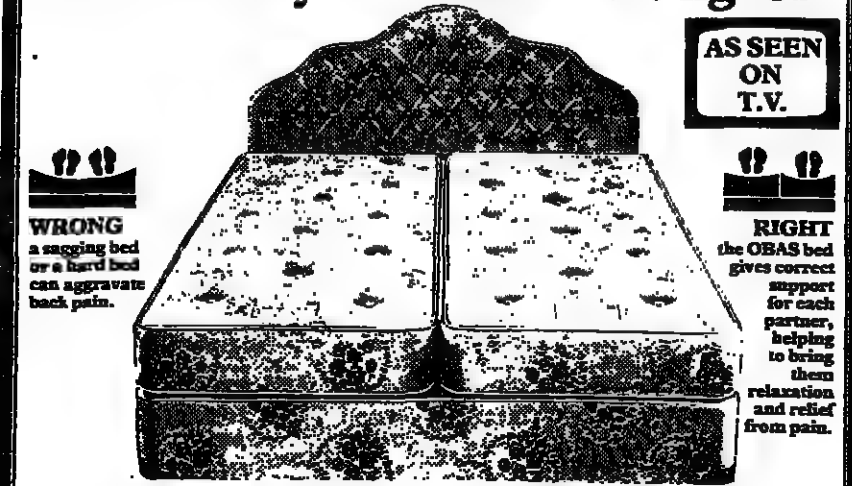
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From Dr Leslie Isaac Hardy, *The Dates*, Collingham, West Yorkshire
The ingredients of a successful marriage are: 1 Love; 2 Sex — an agreement about it; 3 Children — how many and at what intervals; 4 Affection — not the same as sex; 5 Companionship — to go everywhere, or nearly everywhere, together; 6 Partnership — who earns and who makes the home; 7 Examination of the family into which you are marrying; 8 An arrangement, implicit or explicit, about who gives way: "A soft answer turneth away wrath" (Proverbs, Chapter 15, verse 1).

The telephone numbers for Babemobile ("& Briefly", *Wednesday Page*, February 10) are: 01-950 6506 and 01-950 5036.

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BBC1

6.00 *Cartoon AM*.
6.35 *Leon Errol* in *When Wife's Away* (b/w). **6.55** *Weather*.
7.00 *Breakfast Time* with Jeremy Paxman and Sally Jones. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; *Hospital Watch* updates at 7.20 and 7.50; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.

8.30 *Laverne and Shirley*. **8.55** *Regional news and weather*.
9.00 *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. *Samson Holmes* receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television output. To contribute ring 061-814 0424 9.20 *Kitty*. A studio discussion on whether or not patients should have access to their medical records.

10.00 *News* and weather followed by *Children's BBC*. *Andy Crane* with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Children's News* and *The Wombles* (r). **10.55** *Five to Eleven*. A divorce by Gary Hope. **11.00** *News* and weather followed by *Open Air*. *Samson Holmes* receives viewers' comments on yesterday's television output. To contribute ring 061-814 0424 11.20 *Kitty*. A studio discussion on whether or not patients should have access to their medical records.

12.00 *News* and weather followed by *Children's BBC*. *Andy Crane* with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Children's News* and *The Wombles* (r). **1.00** *One O'Clock News* with Michael Barker. **1.30** *News* and weather.

1.50 *Hospital Watch* from Liverpool's Royal Alder Hey and Great Green hospitals.

2.15 *Five to Eleven* with a Stranger (1953, b/w) starring Jean Simmons and Victor Mature. Romantic drama about a rising young Congressman who finds himself between two opposing political factions and then jeopardizes his marriage when he becomes involved with an attractive lawyer. Directed by Jerry Schatzberg.

2.40 *Ask Margo*. Citizens' rights advice from Margo McDonald.

BBC2

8.55 *Open University*.
9.30 *Daytime on Two*. Scottish designers. **9.55** *Spice*. Five of *Geordie*. **10.15** *Old*. *Geordie*. **10.30** *Information*. *11.00* *Storytime*. *11.15* *Wondermats*. *11.30* *Underground*. *11.55* *Susan Hill's novel I'm the King of the Castle*. *12.30* *Breaking in*. *1.00* *Leisure*. *1.15* *Leisure*. *1.30* *Leisure*. *1.45* *Leisure*. *2.00* *Leisure*. *2.15* *Leisure*. *2.30* *Leisure*. *2.45* *Leisure*. *3.00* *Leisure*. *3.15* *Leisure*. *3.30* *Leisure*. *3.45* *Leisure*. *4.00* *Leisure*. *4.15* *Leisure*. *4.30* *Leisure*. *4.45* *Leisure*. *5.00* *Leisure*. *5.15* *Leisure*. *5.30* *Leisure*. *5.45* *Leisure*. *6.00* *Leisure*. *6.15* *Leisure*. *6.30* *Leisure*. *6.45* *Leisure*. *7.00* *Leisure*. *7.15* *Leisure*. *7.30* *Leisure*. *7.45* *Leisure*. *8.00* *Leisure*. *8.15* *Leisure*. *8.30* *Leisure*. *8.45* *Leisure*. *9.00* *Leisure*. *9.15* *Leisure*. *9.30* *Leisure*. *9.45* *Leisure*. *10.00* *Leisure*. *10.15* *Leisure*. *10.30* *Leisure*. *10.45* *Leisure*. *11.00* *Leisure*. *11.15* *Leisure*. *11.30* *Leisure*. 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Runcie censures Gummer attack

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Editor

Mr John Gummer, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture and a member of the General Synod of the Church of England, was publicly rebuked yesterday by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie.

The Archbishop took exception to comments Mr Gummer had made about the Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood. Dr Runcie issued an unprecedented public statement which began by praising the "robust but tolerant" tone of discussion between the Synod and the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd, on Wednesday.

Dr Runcie said: "Mr Gummer is both a minister and a churchman, but I have to say that I find the tone of his attacks this week on the Archbishop of York surprising. Of course he is entitled to criticize an archbishop, but I find it very sad that Mr Gummer has done so in the way he chose."

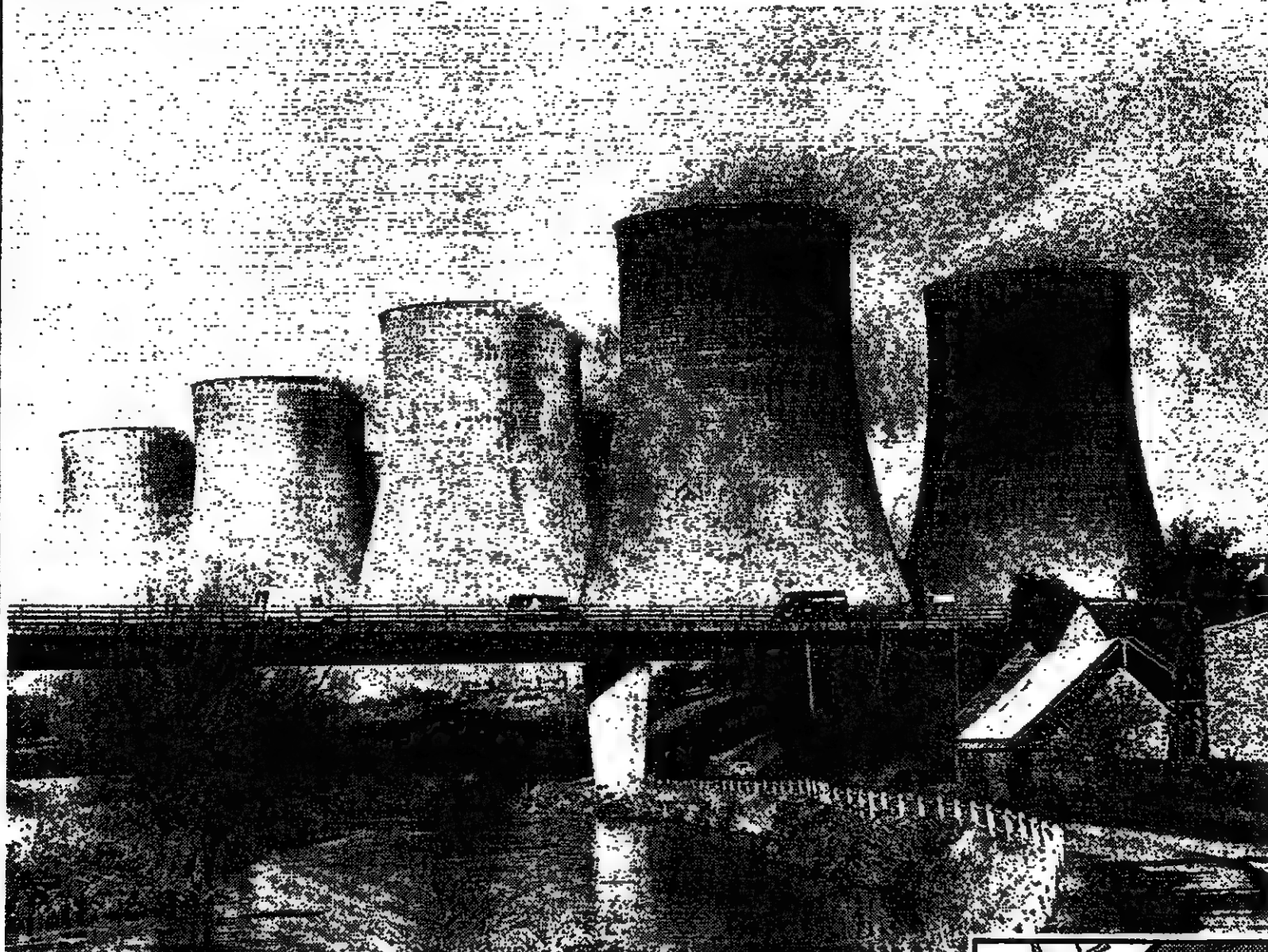
Mr Gummer criticized Dr Habgood on Monday for his contribution to the House of Lords' debate on the anti-homosexual clause in the Local Government Bill.

He returned to the attack on the *Jimmy Young* programme on BBC Radio 2 on Wednesday, saying there was happiness throughout the church about the inability of certain bishops "to put clearly the Christian message".

Last night Conservative MPs came to Mr Gummer's defence (Nicholas Wood writes). Mr Robert Dunn, Under-Secretary of State at the Department of Education and Science, said: "I very much side with John Gummer". He added: "We resent the overbearing influence of a number of trendy clerics whose belief in God and Christian values is doubtful".

Synod report, page 6
Letters, page 13

Crumbling towers at power plant



The two towers (above, right) in danger of collapsing at the showpiece power station (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Cooling towers at the country's most efficient power station are in such danger of collapsing that workers repairing them have been ordered to "abandon site" when winds reach 30 miles an hour.

Valuable civil engineering equipment and expensive loads of pre-mixed concrete have been lost as the site at the Ratcliffe on Soar power station has been evacuated.

The power station near the M1 in Nottinghamshire is the most productive in the Central Electricity Generating Board's network of 78 power stations in England and Wales. Its efficiency has not been affected by the

problems in two of the eight towers.

The contract worth £1.75 million to reinforce the towers has been awarded to the M.J. Gleason construction group with sub-contractors being placed with specialized piling and grouting contractors Colcrete, which is part of GKN.

The two towers were built in the early sixties. In 1965 three towers of a similar design collapsed at Ferrybridge, West Yorkshire.

Since then the board has used its own engineering staff rather than outside contractors to design and supervise construction. The other six towers at Ratcliffe on Soar were built under the new system.

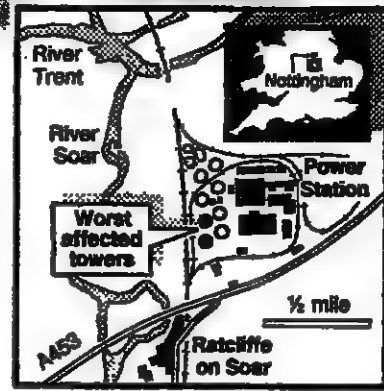
The two towers involved will be

underpinned to stabilize their foundations and later this year a concrete girde will be built around them.

The site has had wind measurement devices installed connected to red warning lights and sirens which start up as soon as the wind reaches 30 miles an hour. At that point all contractors on site must leave.

Lorries pouring concrete are abandoned until the wind drops and steel piling casings which are normally drawn out of the ground once concrete has been poured have to be left there.

The power station uses coal from the Nottinghamshire cofields to meet base-load demand and produces 2,000 megawatts, enough to feed Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire.



The board said yesterday that there was no danger to the public. The towers are a long way from the nearest road and the safety precautions were being taken as part of normal operating policy.

Shoplifter's £750,000 treasure hoard found

by Sarah Jane Checkland, Art Market Correspondent

A huge hoard of stolen art, 1,700 items ranging in period from the 2nd century AD to 1986, has been recovered from a private address in Southfields, south-west London, by Chelsea police.

It appears the collection, thought to be worth between £500,000 and £750,000, was accumulated by a seasoned shoplifter over a number of years.

The hoard includes icons, Renaissance sculptures, pottery, carpets and silverware, as well as five items stolen from the Victoria and Albert Museum. Those are believed to be two Renaissance bronzes, a fourteenth-century marble angel candlestick, a seventeenth-century brass spit-end and a Greek tile. It is understood the V&A treasures were stolen over a period from 1980.

"There is so much we don't have the facility to show more

than one person at a time", a detective constable said at Notting Dale Police Station yesterday.

He added: "We will probably be putting it on show on February 25 at Wembley, when people can come and claim their goods".

New Scotland Yard says that the hoard was recovered on January 28. Police had gone to the home of a man aged 44, after he had failed to turn up at court on shoplifting charges. About £100,000 worth has been identified; the rest is being catalogued.

"Apparently it was a one-man effort, rather than a sort of organized racket", Scotland Yard said.

The man is being interviewed, and will possibly be charged today.

The V&A said: "We are delighted that these things have been recovered".

Physicist's body is found

Continued from page 1

merit scientist who worked in the bubble chamber department of nuclear physics. He was internationally known for his work on nuclear particle physics," he said.

Bubble chambers are used to detect the fleeting existence of particles produced by experiments with accelerators. Mrs Stuart also worked at Rutherford as a support scientist. Colleagues at the research centre expressed "great shock" at yesterday's incident.

Dr Fisher's death is the second tragedy involving a scientific worker from Farnington in the past week. Harwell laboratory assistant Mr Russell Smith, aged 23, was found dead beneath the cliffs at Bude, Cornwall, at the weekend.

Obituary, page 14

Memories of Kozara horror

Continued from page 1

Only the children of young mothers were separated. The Germans had decided that the mothers could be used for forced labour. The Ustashi had decided, with German permission, to give the children to Croatian families who would bring them up as Catholics. All over Kozara, thousands of children were being taken from their homes.

Many went directly to Jasenovac concentration camp, where they were butchered with knives or died of typhoid. In this way, Milica Burdalo was one of the lucky ones. She tells her story slowly, as if still trying to remember the details which she has since discovered from others. "As they were taking me away to the train, they wanted to put a name on me. But a friend of my mother's shouted out what she thought was my name - in her panic, she said it was Milica, which was my mother's name."

It took 24 hours for

"Milica", as she now was, to reach Zagreb; half the children in the train died, many suffering from dysentery. They pulled the corpses out at Zagreb station.

"Milica" was taken in by a Croatian family named Fistic who choose to name her Brigita, and she lived through the rest of the war as Brigita Fistic; until in 1947, the surviving families of Kozara heard that 2,000 of the children taken from them were in Zagreb. Then her tragedy began again. She was kidnapped by a couple whose own little girl, also called Milica, had been taken by the Germans. Then five other families claimed her as their own. But there followed years of loneliness.

It was only in 1980 - after working as a model and a house cleaner and after marrying her photographer husband, Mr Dusan Knezevic, that Milica discovered her real identity when her picture and story was published by a

Yugoslav journalist. Her mother's friend remembered calling her "Milica" at the transit camp; Milica was found to carry a scar on her forehead which she had received when she was living in Bosanska Dubica. Under hypnosis, she remembered her name was Milica. And just before Christmas that year she was reunited with her three sisters and brother; but her mother, still believing that her fourth daughter was indeed alive, had died in 1967.

"For me," Milica Knezevic says, "the war lasted for 38 years." She betrays her anger just once. "Dr Waldheim claims that he did not know what was going on in the area where I lived," she says. "This is impossible. The Germans behaved so cruelly to us that it was impossible for Waldheim not to have noticed when he was here. Why was he decorated by Pavelic, the Ustasha leader? That wasn't for nothing. Waldheim was part of the machinery."

Yogi stands in for Joan Crawford

The absence of the Prime Minister had a most peculiar effect on Honourable Members. Mr Joe Ashton, for instance, sat with his right hand placed down the front of his trousers. Other members made the change in their moods felt in somewhat less tangible ways.

Mrs Thatcher was in Brussels, and so Prime Minister's Question Time featured the Leader of the House, Mr John Wakeham. This was a casting roughly akin to Yogi Berra standing in for Miss Joan Crawford. Perhaps to show that this time he really meant business, Mr Neil Kinnock was also absent. In his place came Mr Roy Hattersley. This was a less dramatic switch, more on a par with Hardy standing in for Laurel.

For these reasons, the Chamber was noticeably less full than usual. It was also rather more relaxed, with the normal parade of government Tory backbenchers neglecting to pipe up about the consummate excellence of the National Health Service in such gracious hands, and preferring instead to take time off to chat to one another.

Wishing to make his mark in the most coveted of roles, Mr Hattersley threw away the script for which he had understudied so long, casting the National Health to one side in favour of the Stalker revelations. The decision not to prosecute was, he said, "appalling". Mr Wakeham replied that "a thorough and detailed investigation" had already taken place. Mr Hattersley spoke of the damage that reply would create.

Alas, however much Mr Hattersley winds his overlarge tongue around such words as "damage" and "appalling", he cannot alter the impression that he would use roughly the same language, in roughly the same tone, when complaining to a head waiter about a lemon soufflé that had failed to rise. This impression of insincerity is furthered by his habit of chatting and chortling with colleagues the moment he has finished performing his duties, the fancy tassels on his shoes leaping up and down as his body heaves with laughter.

Thus, while Mr Peter Pike

(Lab, Burnley) on the backbenches attacked the cuts and closures in St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, the force of his complaints was offset by Mr Hattersley on the front bench stuffing his forefinger into his mouth in an attempt to stifle his laughter.

Without Mrs Thatcher herself present, the Opposition appeared half-hearted. Mr Joe Ashton's hand was now shaking in the direction of Mr Dennis Skinner as the two pursued some private squabble.

It was as if with the Cabaret Artistes elsewhere, the men in the Gentlemen's Club couldn't quite think what to talk about.

Mr Frank Haynes (Lab, Ashfield) raised the topic of Black Magic chocolates. He wanted to make the point, he said, that Rowntrees had dropped the Liquid Cherries from the box. This was hardly the stuff of great debate, or indeed of any sort of debate; by its silence, the House seemed to signal consensus.

Mr Tony Banks made a noble attempt to live things up. "As the Prime Minister is away, we can all talk freely," he announced. He was sure that Mr Wakeham, an anti-television man, would be a good loser, and would not attempt to frustrate the televising of Parliament. But he didn't have the same faith in the Right Honourable Lady. He was sure, he said, that "she is planning some hideous and bloody revenge at this very moment". The remaining Conservatives seemed unsure whether they were allowed to laugh. Perhaps she was only pretending to be in Brussels, and all the time she had been listening to them from a secret hide-hole, ready to storm in with her cane, furiously demanding to know who it was who had laughed.

The Opposition seemed to grow ever more certain of her distance, however. Mr Max Madden said that as "one of Britain's richest pensioners" she should be told of the plight of pensioners less well off. Mr Dennis Skinner, having shaken off Joe Ashton, told Mr Wakeham to tell the Prime Minister that, with the staff at Westminster preparing to strike, "there's trouble at mill".

Craig Brown

Farm reform 'in balance'

Continued from page 1

failure today would jeopardize European unification. "Not only will our citizens be disappointed, Europe will no longer be taken seriously on the international stage."

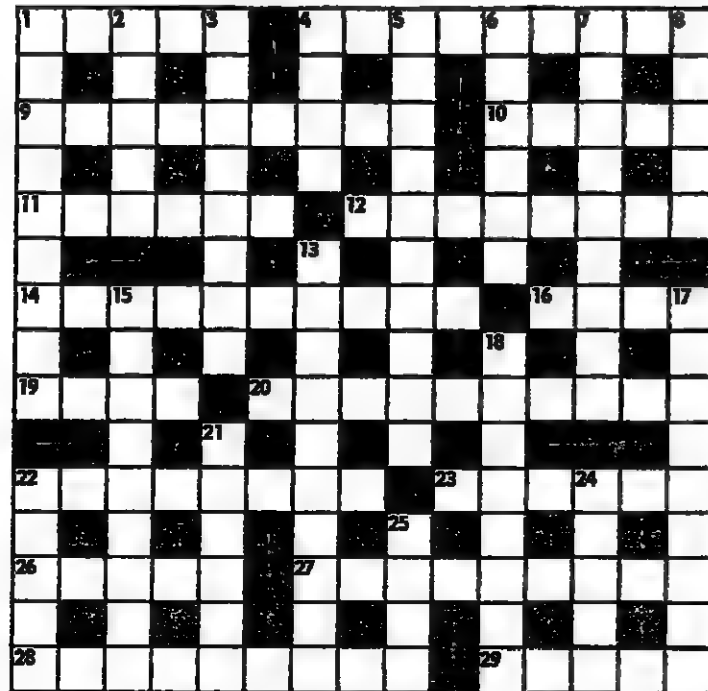
Herr Kohl said that Europe was in a "decisive phase" in co-ordinating its economic development, and had to get a grip on farm spending. But there were still many "open questions", and he asked all 12 EEC countries to make concessions. "Anyone here who wants everything will end by achieving nothing," he told the Summit. "They will hurt everyone, and in so doing hurt themselves". British officials said this was not directed at

Mrs Thatcher but was a reminder to the EEC

Officials said there was still deadlock between Britain and West Germany over "stabilisers", setting maximum permissible levels of cereals and oil seeds output, with Bonn seeking a deal which would satisfy its small farmers. There was some alarm when M Jacques Chirac, the French Prime Minister, suggested that the stabilisers already agreed at Copenhagen for commodities such as wine and sugar might be re-examined.

West German officials said that the summit agenda included examination of the British budget rebate in 1984

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,590



ACROSS

- 1 Brown bread for health (5).
- 4 Story a child slept through? (9).
- 9 Final demand from Thule Corporation (9).
- 10 A chief is flat out (5).
- 11 Usher in York is one (6).
- 12 Sailors in the Scrubs? (8).
- 14 Remote post, not in Victoria for example (10).
- 16 Jude is Judith, so to speak (4).
- 19 Sister, for example, when filled with love (4).
- 20 The richest man in the world in book or play (10).
- 22 Damage to boat off Gateshead in rough sea (8).
- 23 Continue with 50 per cent benefit (6).
- 26 Discover impostor's real name (5).
- 27 The chosen, it is said, of a German prince (9).
- 29 Printers with a Greek girl? No, she's from New Zealand (5).

Concise crossword, page 11

DOWN

- 1 Try to land (5,4).
- 2 Free transfer for Croat player (5).
- 3 Pattern you would have to consider after study (8).
- 4 The bird is flown (4).
- 5 She's pretty stupid (4,6).
- 6 Double bill - one with a Tree (6).
- 7 Start of parrot's brisk chatter (9).
- 8 Charles has his head in the sand, stupid boy (5).
- 13 Firm flesh near the knuckle? (6,4).
- 15 The sort of sketch that needs cutting (5,4).
- 17 Office of Minister of State for the carriage of oil, perhaps (9).
- 18 In Pelion originally it showed how to exaggerate (4,2,2).
- 21 The position of the driver (6).
- 22 The kind of law Carroll's Alice comprehended (5).
- 24 Mounted parade with soldiers in the Roman courts (5).
- 25 A fair amount to drink, one might say (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

CARMAGNOLE

- a. A song and dance
- b. Basque fish stew
- c. The Mexican highlands

HANDFUL

- a. A measure of shrimps
- b. Stenopygy
- c. A prison sentence

MORTON'S FORK

- a. A surgical clamp
- b. A dilemma
- c. The Continental Divide

MERIDIVOROUS

- a. Sea-dividing
- b. Federal military service
- c. Dung-eating

Answers page 18, column 1

Solution to Puzzle No 17,589

ACROSS: 1. BREAD, 4. SLEPT, 9. DEMAND, 10. CHIEF, 11. USHER, 12. SCRUBS, 14. REMOTE, 16. JUDE, 19. SISTER, 20. RICHEST, 22. DAMAGE, 23. CONTINUE, 26. DISCOVER, 27. CHOSEN, 29. PRINTERS. DOWN: 1. TRY, 2. FREE, 3. PATTERN, 4. BIRD, 5. SHE'S, 6. DOUBLE, 7. START, 8. CHARLES, 13. FIRM, 15. SORT, 17. OFFICE, 18. IN, 21. POSITION, 22. KIND, 24. MOUNTED, 25. FAIR.

WEATHER

Some sunshine for most areas as a transient ridge of high pressure dominates the weather. Showers in most areas, particularly coastal districts exposed to the fresh to strong westerly winds. An area of more organised showers, with snow over the hills, will affect the far north. Outlook for the weekend: Bright and sunny start but rain with strong winds will spread from the west to all parts.

ABROAD

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Amsterdam	14/5	W 10	100
Antwerp	12/3	W 10	100
Brussels	12/3	W 10	100
Cologne	12/3	W 10	100
Düsseldorf	12/3	W 10	100
Frankfurt	12/3	W 10	100
Hamburg	12/3	W 10	100
Köln	12/3	W 10	100
Leipzig	12/3	W 10	100
Munich	12/3	W 10	100
Nuremberg	12/3	W 10	100
Paris	12/3	W 10	100
Rome	12/3	W 10	100
Stockholm	12/3	W 10	100
Vienna	12/3	W 10	100
Zurich	12/3	W 10	100

Notes: Wind direction and force in miles per hour.

Forecast for Saturday: High 12, low 5, wind W 10, cloud 100.

Forecast for Sunday: High 12, low 5, wind W 10, cloud 100.

Forecast for Monday: High 12, low 5, wind W 10, cloud 100.

Forecast for Tuesday: High 12, low 5, wind W 10, cloud 100.

Forecast for Wednesday: High 12, low 5, wind W 10, cloud 100.

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Forecast for Sunday: High 12, low 5, wind W 10, cloud 100.

AROUND BRITAIN

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Belfast	14/5	W 10	100
Cardiff	12/3	W 10	100
Edinburgh	12/3	W 10	100
Glasgow	12/3	W 10	100
London	12/3	W 10	100
Manchester	12/3	W 10	100
Newcastle	12/3	W 10	100
Nottingham	12/3	W 10	100
Sheffield	12/3	W 10	100
Southampton	12/3	W 10	100
Stirling	12/3	W 10	100
Swansea	12/3	W 10	100
Torquay	12/3	W 10	100
Wolverhampton	12/3	W 10	100
Wrexham	12/3	W 10	100

Notes: Wind direction and force in miles per hour.

Forecast for Saturday: High 12, low 5, wind W 10, cloud 100.

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AM

John H. G. 150

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 12 1988

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share
1381.0 (+12.6)
FT-SE 100
1729.8 (+11.3)
Bargains
21593 (20733)
USM (Datastream)
145.08 (+0.27)

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7595 (-0.0025)
W German mark
2.9736 (-0.0042)
Trade-weighted
74.3 (-0.1)

Steel sale likely this autumn

Privatization of British Steel is likely to go ahead next autumn with publication of the enabling legislation today.

The Enabling Bill should have its second reading in the Commons in the week after next, putting it on course for approval by the summer. This would allow the Government to fulfil the wishes of Sir Robert Scholey, the BSC chairman, for privatization as early as November, and provide the Exchequer with proceeds now expected to be well in excess of £1 billion.

The triple bang - Big Bang, the stock market crash and resulting changes in the City - come under the scrutiny of Kenneth Fleet in his column tomorrow

Peachey rise

Peachey Property Corporation reported an increase in pretax profits for the first six months to December 25 from £4.3 million to £7.8 million. The interim dividend rises to 4.5p a share, up from 3.5p.

Tempus, page 22

BT buyback

British Telecom is repurchasing the rest of its preference shares at a cost of £250 million. The remaining 250 million shares, all held by the Government, will be redeemed at par on May 10 out of general financial resources.

Clegg choice

Mr Tony Clegg, chairman of the Mountleigh property group, has recruited Mr Peter Carr, a top retailer and former managing director of Debenhams, to run his Spanish-based department stores business, Galerias Preciados.

SUMMARY

STOCK MARKETS

New York	1988.34 (+3.30)*
Dow Jones	Closed
Nikkei Average	Closed
Hong Kong	2258.48 (+23.01)
Amsterdam Gen	221.5 (+3.3)
Sydney AO	1192.2 (+1.3)
Frankfurt	1310.8 (+30.6)
Commerzbank	4298.0 (+34.1)
General	281.7 (+8.1)
Paribas	433.3 (+5.1)
Zenith SCA Gen	897.33 (+1.14)
London:	
FT-A All-Share	1381.0 (+12.6)
FT-30	1381.0 (+12.6)
FT-100	1729.8 (+11.3)
FT-Gold Mines	252.7 (-6.3)
FT-Food Interest	94.97 (+0.05)
FT-Govt Secs	88.51 (-0.12)
Recent Issues	Page 24
Closing Prices	Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISERS	
Schroders	925p (+25p)
Parrish	345p (+20p)
Hammerston	545p (+20p)
Reuters	183p (+15p)
Microfilm Regro	325p (+25p)
Bass	760p (+145p)
Perry Group	215p (+15p)
Nash Industries	125p (+10p)
Bristol Land	253p (+10p)
WPP	435p (+10p)
Castle Comm	190p (+15p)
FALLS	
Henderson Admin	650p (-25p)
Elys (Wimbledon)	605p (-20p)
Warford	850p (-25p)
Body Shop	835p (-10p)
Stocks	345p (-10p)
Bramall	600p (-15p)
Closing prices	

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base: 9%
3-month interbank 8 1/2-9 1/4%
3-month eligible bills 8 1/2-9 1/4%
buying rate
US: Prime Rate 8 1/2%
Federal Funds 8 1/2-9%
3-month Treasury Bills 5.65-5.85%
30-year bonds 105 1/2-106 1/2%

CURRENCIES

London	New York
£ \$1.7595	£ \$1.7595
£ DM2.5736	£ DM2.5736
£ Sfr2.4413	£ Sfr2.4413
£ FF10.0573	£ FF10.0573
£ Yen226.27	£ Yen226.27
£ Index34.8	£ Index34.8
ECU 50.99324	SDR 20.77257

GOLD

London Gold: AM \$440.20 pm \$440.80
Selling: \$441.00-441.50 (\$250.50-251.00)
New York: COMEX \$440.75-441.25

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar.)	pm \$16.40bbl (\$16.40)
Denotes latest trading price	
See Roundup	22
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Wall Street	22
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SE urged to study reform

Governor questions the role of account system

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

The Governor of the Bank of England last night paved the way for a big reform of stock market dealing, by indicating that he wants the Stock Exchange to consider changing or abolishing its traditional system of fortnightly dealing accounts.

The system, under which all share deals are paid for 10 days after the end of each fixed two-week trading period, was a device to cut down paper-work in the pre-computer age. But it has long been the main vehicle for short-term speculation.

In a deceptively relaxed post-mortem on the crash, delivered at a dinner for former students of the City University Business School, Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor, said the system could lead to a build-up in the exposure of stock market firms to possible defaults by their customers.

"At the time of the crash, which took place in mid-account," he said "such exposures, compounded with those represented by unsettled bargains from previous accounts, gave rise to worries in the market about a number of firms and clients - which

fortunately in the event turned out to be misplaced."

This could make the likelihood of contagious collapse far greater when the whole system was under strain.

Mr Leigh-Pemberton said it was also worth examining how far the account system made it easier for speculators to deal "short" by selling shares they do not own in the hope of buying them back more

cheaply. "For both reasons, I believe that it might be helpful to reconsider the role of the account."

The suggestion is likely to cause dismay among Stock Exchange firms already hit by the sharp fall in business since the crash. The account system can delay payment for three weeks. Speculators buying and selling within the account avoid stamp duty and save commission.

They can also pay a fee to carry deals from one account to another without settling them. These carry-over mechanisms, called *cantango* and *"cash and new time"* dealing,

are likely to come under the closest scrutiny.

The Stock Exchange will find it hard to avoid taking up the Governor's call. Mr Leigh-Pemberton went out of his way last night to praise a speech made on Wednesday by Sir Nicholas Goodison, in which the Stock Exchange chairman called for central bankers to become prime regulators of stock markets.

The Governor echoed Sir Nicholas by calling for much closer and possibly more formal links between supervisors internationally, in both banking and securities.

He said he saw no need for artificial "circuit-breakers" on stock market prices, which would reduce the liquidity of the market and could do more harm than good.

Bank gives warning on balance of payments

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Bank of England is worried about the vulnerability of Britain's balance of payments, both to strong growth in domestic demand and to a loss of invisible earnings as a result of the dollar's fall.

In its pre-Budget assessment of the economy, published last night, the Bank said there is little prospect of a sustained improvement in Britain's competitiveness, and the present growth of domestic demand may be unsustainable.

In its *Quarterly Bulletin*, the Bank held out the prospect of current account deficits for several years, adding that this could be a necessary contribution to the widely sought improvement in the US balance of payments deficit.

The Bank called on Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, to adopt a cautious approach in his March 15 Budget. But Bank officials said this did not rule out some tax cuts.

"It will also be important for the preservation of both

internal and external balance that the anti-inflationary burden continues to be shared between monetary and fiscal policy," the Bank said, a veiled reference to the need for a tight Budget.

The Bank's preference appears to be for a target for the public sector borrowing requirement next year similar to this year's expected outcome. The PSBR is on course for a repayment of between £1 billion and £2 billion in the current year. Setting a similar target for 1988-89 would still allow the Chancellor between £2 billion and £3 billion of tax cuts, according to independent estimates.

The Bank is concerned about the strength of consumer demand, the associated fall in saving, and the growth of credit.

In its assessment of the economy and monetary policy, the Bank studiously avoided signalling the need for a further rise in base rates. But it warned: "The latest

economic and monetary indicators depict a still buoyant economy simply provided with credit, giving little sign so far that the pressures from domestic demand will abate soon."

Monetary policy would be "non-accommodating" in order to prevent a re-emergence of inflationary pressures, the Bank said, indicating that a firm exchange rate for the pound will remain a top priority.

Industry's costs must be "strictly contained," the *Bulletin* says, adding that wage developments are "not reassuring." However, it notes, some of the recent acceleration in pay may have occurred in those areas of the economy not exposed to international competition.

The Bank questions the sustainability of the present growth of domestic demand, but no convincing explanation is offered for why it may slow down this year.

Amstrad surges to £90m

By Carol Ferguson

Amstrad, the consumer electronics group, produced results well ahead of City expectations at the interim stage. Pretax profits for the half-year to December 31 rose 29 per cent to £90 million, compared with analysts' forecasts which ranged from £75 million to £85 million.

Earnings per share rose 24 per cent to 11.58p, and the interim dividend was doubled to 0.4p net.

This strong performance caused the share price to continue its strong upward path of the last few weeks, rising 5p to 135p.

Mr Alan Sugar, the chair-

man of Amstrad, said that sales of existing products had been "excellent." He said that this reinforced his point that Amstrad does not survive on new products alone.

"The October stock market crash seems to have had absolutely no effect on sales volume, demand or attitude towards any of our products, the only negative effect being the ridiculous underrating of our company's stock price."

However, he gave a warning that the profits in the second half of the year would be flat. "I must remind shareholders to expect the balance of this financial year's sales and prof-

its to follow the industry's traditional seasonal downturn trend, which coincidentally always corresponds to the final six months of the company's financial year."

Mr Sugar said that Amstrad had formed a new subsidiary in Germany to take over the operations of its present distributor.

He said that sales of the original Amstrad word processor were running at around 250,000 a year, and the IBM compatible machines, the 1640 and the 1512, at a rate of 600,000 to 700,000 worldwide for the two combined.

Tempus, page 22

Warning to the small banks

By Richard Thomson
Banking Correspondent

The Bank of England has adopted a two-tier approach to bad debt provisioning by banks in their 1987 results, allowing banks with smaller exposure to Third World debtors to make larger provisions. It is an important indication that supervisory authorities are actively encouraging smaller banks to withdraw from Third World debt altogether.

The Bank's attitude was revealed yesterday when Scandinavian Bank Group, the first significant British bank to publish its 1987 results, announced year-end provisions of 40 per cent - a 10 per cent increase from the interim stage last August.

The figure is significant because it pushes Scandinavian Bank's bad debt reserves beyond the level laid down by the Bank's "matrix" - a guideline issued last year on what provisioning levels the Bank considered appropriate.

But the Bank is anxious to ensure that the move is not taken as a precedent by the big British clearing banks, whose annual results season begins with the Midland Bank's figures next Thursday.

Only last week Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor of the Bank of England, publicly urged them to stick within the matrix.

Scandinavian Bank's general and specific provisions for 1987 of £27.2 million were largely responsible for holding the bank's pretax profit at £26.5 million - only a marginal increase on the previous year. Mr Garrett Bouton, the chief executive, said: "We put our proposal to increase provisions to 40 per cent before the Bank and they did not object to our plans."

He said that Scandinavian Bank was allowed to go above the matrix level because it is planning a systematic withdrawal from its relatively small exposure to Third World countries. This would be done by a mixture of selling debt for cash and swapping it for other forms of debt.

"A 40 per cent provision level gives us the necessary flexibility to do this," Mr Bouton said. It is a strategy which smaller banks are increasingly following. Several US regional banks have recently boosted their provisions to well above 50 per cent as a prelude to writing off or sell-

ing their Third World loans at a discount.

But the Bank of England is taking a stricter attitude to big banks whose large exposure does not allow them to withdraw from the debt problem. Although the matrix was originally intended merely as a guideline, the Bank has put increasing pressure on clearers to observe the system rigidly.

National Westminster, the richest of the banks, had been actively considering boosting its provisions to at least 50 per cent for 1987, but because of Bank pressure it is now unlikely to go much above the current 30 per cent level. The Bank wants to avoid aggressive provisioning because it would put weaker banks such as Lloyds, Midland and Standard Chartered in a difficult competitive position.

Both banks and regulators agree that the debt problem would be considerably simplified if smaller banks withdrew. In a speech at a conference on Latin America yesterday, Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman of Lloyds Bank, said that the departure of smaller creditors would ease the debt process.



Strong start: Richard Giordano, pictured yesterday, says the group is heading for further growth (Photograph: John Rogers)

Currency movements limit BOC to £63.6m

By Alexandra Jackson

The BOC Group has had a strong start to the year, according to Mr Richard Giordano, the chairman and chief executive. However, first-quarter pretax profits to end-December only advanced from £59.1 million to £63.6 million. Currency movements depressed pretax profits by nearly £8 million.

A lower interest charge and stronger

performance from the group's related companies helped boost an otherwise marginal advance from £68.2 million to £68.9 million at the operating level. Turnover fell from £496 million to £464.8 million.

Mr Giordano reported that the group's healthcare business performed well, and that the gases business enjoyed a widespread improvement, particularly in the US, Japan and South Africa. The

other activities had matched expectations, he said.

Mr Giordano added: "This overall performance puts us on course for further growth in profits and earnings per share for the year as a whole." City analysts are expecting profits of £295 million for the year to end-September, up from £263.2 million last year. The shares gained a penny to close at 394p.

Leysen in victory claim over Benedetti

From Jonathan Brande
Brussels

Mr André Leysen, the Flemish businessman who has led moves to keep Société Générale de Belgique under Belgian control, yesterday claimed victory over his Italian rival, Signor Carlo de Benedetti.

Speaking after a week of tough negotiations, Mr Leysen said he and his allies now had enough shares in the Belgian holding company to ensure that Signor de Benedetti could not get a controlling majority.

He claimed that under a pact due to be signed with Compagnie Financière de Suez, the French banking group and the French Compagnie Générale d'Electricité, his consortium could now muster a total of 47 per cent of La Générale's shares. He believed that would rise to more than 50 per cent.

Meanwhile, he claimed, Signor de Benedetti and his allies had no more than 35 per cent. Since 6 per cent of the holding company's shares would "never be sold," the Italian businessman would have no chance of getting the full 15 per cent he had bid for under his controversial public share offer of 4,000 francs (£64.10) a share.

He had been forced to sign a pact with the Suez group, he added, because of Signor de Benedetti's insistence on controlling the board of La Générale and appointing its directors. But he added that he would retire from the takeover battle unless the pact with Suez was finalized and signed by 10 am today.

He said: "I have done my part." Mr Leysen's claim was immediately rejected by sources close to Signor de Benedetti. They said some of Mr Leysen's allies could turn out to be in the Italian camp instead and that with shares now changing hands on the Brussels bourse at more than 5,000 francs (£80), Signor de Benedetti and his allies could still expect to find shareholders prepared to sell.

Extradition net closes round insider dealers

By Colin Narborough

The Government yesterday announced an amendment to the Criminal Justice Bill to make all insider dealing offences extraditable, plugging a gap in law that would have allowed inside traders to escape by fleeing abroad.

"I forecast a bear market for insider dealers the extradition net is tightening quicker than they may imagine," Mr John Patten, the Home Office Minister of State, said.

The move will particularly help Britain and the United States in their pursuit of suspects and offenders, adding a vital weapon to the existing armoury for combatting wrongdoing on Wall Street and in the City.

It was an information-swapping pact with the US authorities that led to the Guinness

and other affairs and brought the financial community under intense scrutiny by the official watchdogs.

But Whitehall officials denied that the extradition came in response to US pressure, or was linked to any specific cases, such as that of Mr Anthony Farnes, the former Guinness adviser currently awaiting extradition proceedings in a California jail.

In its drive to stamp out City fraud and malpractice, the Government last year included a clause in the Criminal Justice Bill which increased the maximum prison sentence for insider dealing from two years to seven.

Present extradition laws, which date back over a century, do not, however, include this relatively new crime in

their lists of extraditable offences.

Mr Patten, announcing the amendment, said it was vitally important for Britain to face as few barriers as possible in extraditing those accused or convicted of insider dealing offences.

The amendment would mean that all insider dealing offences in the United Kingdom will be extraditable, filling a gap of particular importance to treaty arrangements with the US where insider dealing already qualifies as an extraditable offence.

The Criminal Justice Bill, due to come into force this year, after receiving Royal Assent in the summer, will apply retroactively to insider traders.

Kennedy Brookes up 77% to £10m

By Our City Staff

Kennedy Brookes, the hotels and catering business, increased pretax profits by 77 per cent to £10.4 million in the year to end-October. But the more important measure, earnings per share, only advanced 19 per cent on a fully diluted basis to 21.7p.

An interim dividend of 1.66p was declared, making an

annual total of 2.64p, a 35 per cent increase.

The group has had an acquisitive year, adding to its portfolio the London Hotels, Onslow Court and London, derry and Howard Hotel in New York.

Mr Michael Golder, the Kennedy Brookes chairman, said he expected profits from

hotels to account for well above half group profits this year.

The fish restaurant chain, Wheeler's of St James's, now has 26 restaurants. Four Mario & Franco Pasta-Pizza units were opened during the year.

Tempus, page 22

Superb West End Office Property To Let

20
REGENT STREET
SW1

This outstanding building with six upper floors offers the highest standard of flexible air conditioned office accommodation from 6,500 sq ft upwards to 36,500 sq ft.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Rising house prices push Ward up 49%

Ward Holdings, the Kent property developer which has benefited from booming house prices, the completion of the M25 and the prospect that the Channel Tunnel will swell demand for property in Kent, has reported another sharp rise in profits, with last October's stock market crash barely affecting sales. Pretax profits climbed 49 per cent to £12.9 million in the year to October 31 on sales of £48.3 million, up from £36 million in 1986. Earnings per share jumped 50 per cent to 15.9p.

While Mr Denis Ward, the chairman, expects demand for houses in the south-east to remain strong, he adds: "We believe there will be some cooling off in house prices so that the momentum of the past five years - when profits have increased by 470 per cent - is unlikely to be continuously sustainable."

Triplex Lloyd USM group's profits jump

Triplex Lloyd, the foundries, engineering and building components group, is paying £600,000 for Walford Brothers, which makes silos and related products for the brewing and feed milling industries. Triplex could pay a further £75,000, depending on Walford's profits. Last week, Triplex bought Address Equipment, which is involved in the same field.

Splash calls for £1.1m

Splash Products, the novelty T-shirt printer, has built a 2 million-high T-shirt mountain and wants £1.13 million from its shareholders to help finance it. Stocks have built up rapidly after the company's strike last June left its Indian and Pakistani suppliers of unprinted T-shirts sitting on the quaysides.

The new money, via a two-for-five rights issue at 57p a share, will repay some of the £850,000 bank overdraft built up as stocks rose from £1.2 million to £2.6 million in the 12 months to end-October, and £2.6 million now. Splash made pretax profits of £249,000 for the year to end-October, against £94,000 last time, on a £3.5 million turnover. Earnings are 3.46p a share against 1.39p and the company is paying a 1.1p final dividend making 2.2p for the year.

Double buy for Hodgson

Hodgson Holdings, the funeral director, has bought two more undertakers for a total of £515,000. It is paying £300,000 for R Butler & Sons of Hailsham, East Sussex, and £215,000 for Richards Funeral Service, based at Witham, Essex. Hodgson, which has been expanding fast recently, is expected to announce details of further acquisitions soon.

Tace profits warning

Tace, the process, environmental and quality controls company chaired by Mr Jock MacKenzie, made pretax profits in the year to the end of September of £3.8 million compared with £2.8 million the previous year. Turnover rose to £24.7 million against £22.45 million.

Tace is looking for further expansion opportunities through acquisition both in Britain and abroad. But the company gave a warning that adverse currency changes in the early months of the present year will have an impact on the first half results. However, in the full year the group will benefit from increased US sales due to the promulgation of federal anti-pollution regulations. Earnings per share rose 24 per cent and the total dividend was raised by 17 per cent to 10p.

Aerospace on short list

Four Western aircraft makers have been shortlisted by India's Vayudoot airline to supply planes worth at least \$250 million (£142 million). The contenders are British Aerospace, Boeing, NV Koninklijke Nederlandse Vliegtuigenfabriek Fokker and a Franco-Italian combined effort by Snc Nationale Industrielle Aerospatiale and Aeritalia Spa.

Goring Kerr at £2.5m

Goring Kerr, a world leader in metal detection, made pretax profits of £2.5 million in the year to the end of September compared with £2.1 million last time. Turnover rose to £8.7 million against £7.6 million. The total dividend is raised by 17 per cent to 13.5p. Sales to continental Europe were at record levels and 59 per cent higher.

Amstrad needs new liftoff machine

Success was immediate for Amstrad when its first word processors hit the market. Low cost computers were an instant success and the shares soared.

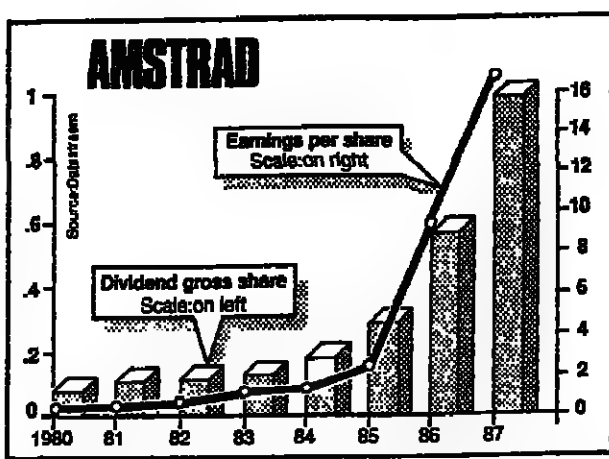
Since then, Amstrad has introduced many products, but none has taken off in quite the same way. Sales of Amstrad's IBM compatible machines, the 1512 and the 1640, have been steady rather than spectacular, and have failed to impress the business market in any convincing way.

To attract the corporate customer, Amstrad really needs to move up to the more powerful models, using the Intel 286, or even the Intel 386 chip. But there are already several IBM compatible 286 clones on the market, and all the leading clone producers are now starting to come out with 386 models, which are in very short supply.

The City has unquestionably been disappointed by Amstrad's failure to repeat its original runaway success. Nevertheless, the company has continued to grow by quietly diversifying both its product base and its markets.

Britain now accounts for just 40 per cent of the company's business. France and Spain each account for 20 per cent. Italy, where it started last September, generates 4 per cent.

Amstrad's move to set up a direct marketing subsidiary in Germany to replace third



party distributors should enable sales to grow substantially faster than they have done hitherto. In spite of having a presence in Germany for the last half dozen years, sales are still only 6 per cent of the total.

What the market would really like to see is a successful new product. But, since Amstrad has failed to make it with its IBM clones, the City will take some convincing that it can do it again with personal computers. And the market for cheap satellite broadcast receiving dishes is too far in the future to generate much interest in today's short term markets.

There are strong rumours that Amstrad is developing a video camera. This sounds more like a winner if the company can get it on the shelves for £500 or under compared with the prevailing

prices of between £700 and £1,000 or above.

Meanwhile, the market has the weaker second half to look forward to. Full year pretax profits should reach £155 million, 15 per cent ahead of last year, giving a prospective multiple of about 6.8.

The shares have enjoyed a strong run in the period up to the results, but they remain, as usual, at a significant discount to the market.

Kennedy

Brookes

The food at Wheeler's and Mario & Franco may not win Michelin rosettes but it has the predictable quality which appeals to British diners.

After all, Kennedy Brookes, owner of these restaurants, is in the market to make

money. It is hard to do this with "fashionable" food.

Over three-quarters of the group's assets are now in hotels, having expanded the number of rooms under its control from 255 a year ago to 1,800 now.

This activity will earn more than half group profits this year and should, in time, enhance margins.

Kennedy Brookes has been criticized for paying fancy prices for some of its properties, but the emphasis placed on food and beverage within the company may allow it to steal a march on other hotel chains.

Careful marketing has a lot to do with Kennedy's strength. Providing a service which is integrated is attractive, particularly to corporate clients - the group now has London and provincial hotels, outside caterers, marquees, wine merchants and restaurants within its portfolio.

Acquisitions have depressed Kennedy Brookes' earnings growth and will continue to do so in the current year. Profits should advance to £15.5 million but earnings will do well to move ahead of last year's 27.1p.

The repositioning of the group and, in particular, the investment being made in the hotel businesses, should, however, get the group off its earnings plateau in 1988-89.

In that year, earnings should move up to 32p on

profits of £19 million.

On a prospective p-e of 9.7 times, the shares are selling at a discount to the market, whereas its competitors enjoy a premium rating.

With the investment in hotels, Kennedy Brookes now has a strong asset backing, accounting for nearly 90 per cent of the company capitalization of the market.

However, the tendency of the sometimes flamboyant management to overlook detail combined with the rapid rate of expansion are easily discounted at these levels. The shares are worth a closer look.

Peachey

Poor Peachey. Just when it thought it had laid to rest the ghost of its unhappy stewardship under the late Sir Eric Miller, along comes the DTI with an investigation focusing on dealings in its shares.

And the timing could not have been worse. Peachey, under its able managing director Mr John Brown, is also involved in what could turn out to be a somewhat tricky takeover bid for the smaller Estates Property Investment Company, which has a hotchpotch of industrial properties.

However, the interim results announced yesterday - which are not always a great guide to a property company - confirm that Peachey has come a long way since the Miller regime and that its

active development programme is paying off.

Pretax profits for the six months rose from £4.3 million to £7.8 million, with net rental income increasing by nearly £2 million to £8.1 million. Total earnings a share were 13.9p compared with 7.9p in the corresponding period.

During the first half the more aggressive policy was reflected in a continuing policy of disposals which saw the sale of offices at Standon House, London, and a variety of industrial properties at Newbury, shops at Guildford, Leyton, Leytonstone and Stockport, and offices at Bristol and Coventry.

On the company's flagship Canary Estate, there was an encouraging flow of new tenants and all the signs are that there is no tailing off in the growth of rents, either in the West End, or in the City.

That trend should continue for the rest of the year, but whether the strong demand witnessed over the last few years is continued after that must be doubtful if indications elsewhere in the industry are anything to go by.

Peachey is expecting pretax profits to be significantly ahead of the £11.7 million last time, with some brokers now upgrading their forecasts to between £14 million and £15 million. Property company shares look safe bets in an uncertain market and Peachey at 381p does not appear to be overpriced.

STOCK MARKETS

Bond 'increases' stake in Allied Lyons

Bond Corporation, the big Australian drinks company, headed by Mr Alan Bond, is reckoned to have added to its holding in Allied Lyons, the drinks and food group and may now account for almost 5 per cent of the shares.

Dealers claim that he has made the most out of the market's recent weakness to increase his stake in Allied, which at the last count was around 3.5 per cent. So far this week, more than 9 million Allied shares have been traded and most of them appear to have found their way to Mr Bond. It is claimed that he has acquired about 7 million shares, or 1 per cent, through several sources, including Merrill Lynch, the New York-based broker. This would take his total holding in Allied to 4.5 per cent.

On Monday, the Allied share price opened at 330p but, despite the market's nervousness, closed unchanged at 335p last night. Mr Bond is reckoned to have paid an average of 375p a share for his original stake.

Last week, Sir Derrick Holden-Brown announced that he would relinquish his role as chairman of Allied at the end of the year but will remain as chief executive. Confirmation of any increase in the Bond stake is bound to rekindle bid speculation in the shares.

On Tuesday, Elders IXL,

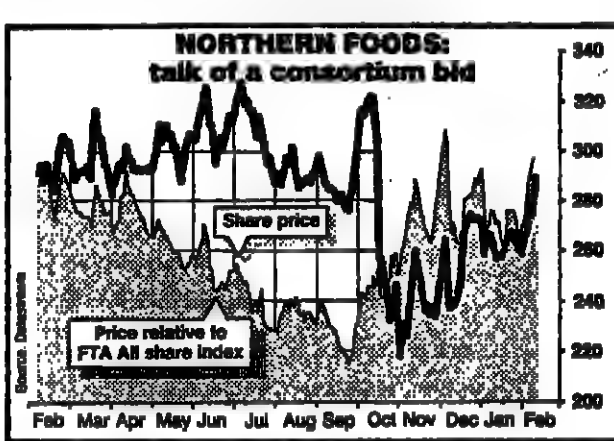
the rival Australian brewer, emerged as the holder of a 2 per cent stake in Scottish & Newcastle Breweries, where Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand businessman, already owns 6 per cent of the shares. S&N finished 2p lower at 237p.

The rest of the equity market continued to recover from Monday's £9 billion fall in share prices. But there were few buyers around and the rally appears to have been largely technical. It has been inspired by Wall Street, where short positions have been built up in equity, futures and option markets and are now being squeezed before today's US trade figures.

But share prices in London

● **Hopkinson Holdings** put in a late start yesterday climbing 10p to 120p. A stake of almost 5 per cent has been built up in the name of Sapon Nominees, a firm used by Stock Exchange member firms to warehouse shares. Word is they could soon be going to Northern Engineering Industries.

closed below their best levels following a dull start to resumed trading in New York and the absence of the expected cut in American prime rates. The FT-SE 100 index closed 11.3 up at 1,729.8, having been 19.4 higher earlier in the day. The narrower FT index of 30 shares gained 12.6 at 1,381.0.



Government securities finished with losses stretching to 27p at the longer end.

Northern Foods stood out with an early 10p rise before settling 5p higher at 288p on renewed speculative talk. Last week, the shares were trading around the 260p level but have been chased higher by talk that a stake-building exercise is underway.

One theory in the market was that Mr John Randall, the former chairman of Avana, the food manufacturer which was bought last year by Ranks Hovis MacDougall, is putting together a consortium of investors to bid for the company.

Mr John Parker, an analyst at County NatWest, the broker, says there is no hard evidence of stake-building at Northern Foods and reckons that the shares are overpriced.

Earlier this week, he cut his profits forecast for this year by £1.5 million to £75.5 million and for 1989 by £1 million to £85 million. That compares with last year's figure of £75.2 million. Mr Parker says that Christmas trade was patchy and has proved to be flat since.

A late show of strength by Plessey, which saw shares of this electrical group advance by 9p to 152p, after 155p, owed much to speculators chasing them higher amid vague stories that STC, the rival group, was about to bid for the company. More than 8 million shares changed hands. Third-quarter figures are due next week.

GKN, which has been hit along with other Ford suppliers recently on fears that the current strike will drag on, rebounded smartly on revived takeover speculation.

The shares touched 309p before closing 12p higher at 302p on a turnover of more than 1.5 million shares as the market came alive to old suggestions that BTR, the industrial conglomerate, is stalking the company. Some dealers were also putting the resurgent TI Group forward as a possible bidder.

The price touched 434p before the market crash. Analysts have taken the view that, with its new management team, GKN is poised for growth and is regarded as a long-term investment.

T&N, the industrial materials group, edged forward a penny to 174p as County NatWest, the broker, claimed

● **Expect news** that Lockheed, the overseas trader, has been promoted from a Beta stock to an Alpha. Nine market-makers are trading in the shares and their ranks should be swelled by another two soon. That could provide a valuable boost to turnover in the shares which closed 6p lower at 669p.

that the shares have been oversold because of the Ford strike and advised clients to buy.

The 8 per cent decline in the share price since the end of January exaggerates the amount of business T&N has with Ford UK. Ford accounts for only a modest amount of

T&N's sales and the strike would have to be a lengthy affair before biting into profits.

Control Securities, the leisure and property group revived by Mr Nazim Virani, the chairman, rose 1p to 47p on news of a stake changing hands.

London & Edinburgh Trust, the property group run by the Beckwith brothers, is said to have held talks yesterday over a possible purchase of a near-5 per cent stake in Control Securities from Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation for 70p a share. This would take LET's shareholding up to just above 10 per cent.

Other major shareholders in CS include Mr Tony Clegg's Mountleigh property group which owns an 8 per cent stake, while Mr Virani's own family holding amounts to 20 per cent.

Control Securities dropped from 125p to 30p briefly during the crash, but has recently showed signs of recovery following news of the auctioning of five of the nine hotels it acquired from Trusthouse Forte for £4.5 million last year.

Talk that Sir Ron Brierley has been offered more than £3 a share for his 13 per cent stake in Ultramar lifted its share price by another 15p to 257p, after 262p.

Michael Clark and Geoffrey Foster

WORLD MARKETS ROUNDUP: NEW YORK

Dow slips in early dealings

(Agencies) - Blue chips eased slightly while the broader indices edged higher in early trading yesterday before the release of the December trade deficit today. Surprisingly good retail sales figures caused some confusion about the economy and interest rates.

The 0.5 per cent rise in retail sales indicated that the economy is not slowing as quickly as expected. This depressed the bond market which has lent direction to shares re-

cently. The Dow Jones industrial average responded by losing 1.04 to 1,961.

On Wednesday, the Dow average closed 7.58 points higher at 1,962.04.

● Three new stocks were added to the Standard and Poor's 500 list and three were deleted. Wall Street traders noted that prices of the three additions rose as managers of index funds added the newcomers to their portfolios.

Added to the list were Helmerich and Payne Inc,

Also Standard Corporation and McKesson Corporation. They replaced Singer Co, Computervision Corporation and Western Company of North America.

● **Overland Park, Kansas** - American Carriers' board has rejected Baytree Investors' offer of \$15 a share for 51 per cent of AC's stock as not in the best interests of the company and its stockholders. The company also said directors had authorized a lawsuit against Baytree.

FRANKFURT

Blue chips leap as buyers return

(Reuters) - Share prices closed sharply higher and near the best levels of the day after active trading, with both domestic and foreign investors moving into the market amid a steady dollar and sharp gains on other stock markets.

Brokers said that there was a large turnover.

"Suddenly, everyone wants to buy German shares again," one said. He added that blue chips in particular benefited from today's rally.

"It is a technical correction after the downturn at the start of the year," one dealer said. The Commerzbank index of 60 leading shares, rose 30.6

points or 2.4 per cent to 1,310.8, the first time it has been above 1,300 since January 8.

Dresdner Bank said in its weekly report on the stock market that fundamental economic factors like interest rates were once again playing a greater role.

HONG KONG

Hang Seng gains 23 on local demand

(Reuters) - Share prices closed higher yesterday on local demand and improved sentiment stemming from Wednesday's US gains.

The Hang Seng index ended 23.01 points higher at 2,256.48, while the broader-based Hong Kong index rose 16.09 points to 1,474.76. Turnover remained at a low HK\$456.98 million (£33.3 million) against Wednesday's HK\$390.22 million.

Brokers said a late rally on Hang Seng index futures, after some short covering, also helped the cash market.

SYDNEY

Sharp rise ends string of declines

(Reuters) - The Australian share market ended sharply higher for the first time in a week, with all sectors showing gains following a strong rise in New York.

"After five consecutive falls, this market is more than ready to indulge in a little bargain hunting," a broker said.

At the close, the All Ordinaries index was up 21.4 points at 1,192.2, and the gold index rose 41.5 points to 1,396.3. The All Industrials index rose 28.7 points to 1,939.4.

SINGAPORE

Shares move higher despite profit-taking

(Reuters) - Shares closed moderately higher across the board yesterday on short-covering and bargain-hunting with some sporadic profit-taking well absorbed.

Sentiment remained cautious as most institutions kept to the sidelines in the absence of fresh factors and ahead of the forthcoming Lunar New Year holidays, brokers said, adding that there was continued concern over the uncertain political situation.

The Straits Times' industrial index climbed by 8.64 points to 866.38.

WALL STREET

Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 9	Feb 10	Feb 9			
AMR Corp	35 1/2	34 1/2	Firestone	38 1/2	38 1/2	PepsiCo	34 1/2	34 1/2
Amgen Inc	45 1/2	45 1/2	Fat Chicago	23	23 1/2	Pfizer	52 1/2	52 1/2
Amgen Life	47 1/2	47 1/2	Fat Group	28 1/2	28 1/2	Pharmacia	52 1/2	52 1/2
Amgen Life	35 1/2	35 1/2	Fat Penn C	5 1/2	5 1/2	Pharmacia	52 1/2	52 1/2
Amgen Life	11 1/2	11 1/2	GE	39 1/2	39 1/2	Pharmacia	52 1/2	52 1/2
Amgen Life	41 1/2	41 1/2	GE	39 1/2	39 1/2	Pharmacia	52 1/2	52 1/2
Amgen Life	17 1/2	17 1/2	GE	39 1/2	39 1/2	Pharmacia	52 1/2	52 1/2
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Amgen Life	43 1/2	43 1/2	GE	39 1/2	39 1/2	Pharmacia	52 1/2	52 1/2

Britoil remains opposed to £2.5bn offer from BP

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The board of Britoil yesterday decided to continue its formal opposition to BP's £2.5 billion bid for the company, and told shareholders who have not yet accepted BP's 500p-a-share offer to wait until the Treasury has made its intentions clear.

Mr David Walker, Britoil's chief executive, said the BP offer was still too low and that shareholders should take no action.

The first closing date for the BP offer is technically today, but it is on the table until at least February 26. Between now and then the Treasury will continue to meet BP and Britoil senior management, to find a set of conditions that

would allow the Britoil board to accept the BP offer.

The Britoil board, which reluctantly announced that it would pass its dividend during the oil crisis of last year, is now anxious that its remaining shareholders should be rewarded by the proposed 9p-a-share due to be announced early in March.

The board believes that if the BP takeover is completed by then, the shareholders will not receive sufficient payment for their past loyalty. It is encouraged that those shareholders who have not accepted the BP offer are the small shareholders who backed the company from the moment it was floated by the

Government, and that a large proportion of them are from Scotland, where Britoil is the largest company.

Britoil said yesterday: "Britoil shareholders will not be disadvantaged by holding on to their shares for the time being. BP cannot close its offer except by giving 14 days' notice of its intention to do so."

BP is still pinning its hopes on winning government approval for a package that promises Britoil continued autonomy within Scotland, and further job prospects with the transferring of BP North Sea activities to Glasgow.

The powerful House of Commons select committee

on energy is about to announce that it will inquire into the Government's relationship with the independent oil companies created after the discovery of North Sea oil. It could be embarrassing in the wake of the BP-Britoil takeover battle, which has been clouded by the Government's golden share in the Glasgow company.

The Treasury has still to announce publicly whether it will allow the BP bid to move from the "unacceptable" to the "acceptable" category, which would allow the Britoil board to recommend it to the outstanding 44.5 per cent of shareholders who have not accepted the BP 500p offer.

Lloyd's agency defence setback

By Alison Eadie

RHM Outhwaite, a Lloyd's managing agency, has been refused by the High Court a 28-day extension for the delivery of its defence against a writ from Roberts & Hiscox (R&H), another Lloyd's underwriting agency. The court also awarded costs against Outhwaite.

R&H issued a writ against Outhwaite, because of Outhwaite's refusal to pay up on run-off reinsurance policies written in 1982 and covering the liabilities of other Lloyd's syndicates, including those of Syndicate 33 run by R&H.

Syndicate 33 has not presented Syndicate 661 with an insurance claim, but wanted to test in court whether its contract with 661 was valid.

Outhwaite has been ordered by the court to deliver its defence by February 16 at the latest or be debarred from defending.

Over the past few months the Outhwaite agency has indicated it would contest its liability to meet the run-off reinsurance contracts it wrote for other syndicates, because it claims the contracts were placed without adequate background disclosure.

R&H told its names: "The market as a whole has been taken by surprise by the scale of the influx of asbestos and pollution claims on the old closed years and it is ridiculous to suggest that all those underwriters who bought reinsurance from Mr Outhwaite were aware this would happen and only he was unaware."

In a letter to names this week, R&H said: "Syndicate 661 has retained solicitors who were the collector and disseminator of the information on asbestos for the (Lloyd's) Asbestos Working Party to which we were subscribers. These solicitors therefore have access to even more information than us."

Elborne Mitchell is the solicitor for Syndicate 661.

The market-wide problem of the Outhwaite run-offs has led to several lawsuits from buyers of Outhwaite policies. A formal standstill agreement between 102 Lloyd's members' agents, which placed names on Outhwaite syndicates, and the Outhwaite agency runs to the end of this year.

The agreement aims to protect names' interests while a fact-finding exercise is carried out by Freshfields, the solicitors.

COMMENT David Brewerton

Governor strikes at the speculator's heart

Robin Leigh-Pemberton is fast building a reputation for delivering sugared but searching analyses of difficult issues. His blindingly simple suggestion, that the Stock Exchange account system should be rethought, will cause consternation among harassed brokers and market-makers, not least because its logic is hard to dispute.

Having lost its original purpose, the two-week account, with its quaint cantos and settlement days, has become an artifice to encourage speculation in the cause of greater market liquidity. It survives because it is loved by short-term traders.

For that reason, it is also loved by brokers and market-makers who make their living from maximizing the volume of share trading. Dealing within the account plays a vital role in boosting business.

Turnover has already halved from a typical 800 million shares a day in the halcyon days before the crash and fell to a miserable 352.7 million yesterday. Insiders guess that it might halve again if the account system were abolished and short-term dealers had to pay for their stock immediately or within a period fixed from the day of first purchase or sale.

That would be commercially disastrous for firms already desperate to match their expanded overheads with

trading volume. It would push thousands more out on to the City streets.

It is not just that dealing within the account is so much cheaper, though savings on (reduced) stamp duty and commissions are still a big incentive. The account system means that the majority of speculators are making their plays at the same time, opening positions at the beginning of the account with the aim of closing them by the end.

It is, therefore, much easier to build up runs in the price of a stock, because the individual speculator knows that he is not alone. For the same reason, it makes share price manipulation much easier, though that is not mentioned in polite company.

Exchange members will argue that abolishing the account would diminish the attractions of the London market as much as going back to the old high rates of stamp duty. The system will be defended, but it might at least have to be reformed.

It is odd that New York bans short-selling in a falling market whereas London actually encourages it. The length of accounts may have to be halved to match New York. Moreover, the Stock Exchange will surely have to respond to the Governor's fears over the risks of an accumulation of unsettled bargains. That might end mechanisms to carry unsettled bargains over anything up to three accounts.

The Bank's hidden fear

The central banker has to tread softly when the markets are in a highly nervous state, while at the same time showing that it is fully aware of the markets' worries. This the Bank of England, writing almost entirely between the lines, just about manages to achieve in its *Quarterly Bulletin*, published yesterday.

In the Bank's view, the dollar's fall last year has had more impact, and carries greater dangers, than the fall in the equity market, which the economy has survived remarkably well. But the response, either to a renewed dollar fall or a sharp drop in share prices would be similar - lower interest rates.

However, as in the period after October 19, the Bank is equally concerned about the danger on the other side of the monetary policy equation - excessive growth in domestic demand in Britain, strong increases in credit and pay increases.

The Bank's analysis thus contains the mechanism by which a slowdown in the economy will occur. Sterling will be held at its current levels by means of a "non-accommodating" monetary policy, the Budget will be cautious and the growth of domestic demand in general and consumer spending will come back to earth.

It is on this latter point that the

Bank's assessment is least satisfactory and for which reason the economy could be embarking on a rather bumpy ride than the authorities care to admit.

The Bank is far from convincing and far from convinced on the prospect of an autonomous slowdown in consumer spending. Much rests on a recovery in the saving ratio from its historically low level of 5 per cent in the third quarter of last year. But some of that recovery probably occurred in the final three months of 1987, when consumer spending slowed. And the other factors affecting the growth of personal demand - real incomes, the availability of credit, etc - are still pointing firmly in the direction of very strong spending.

The European economies could suddenly start growing at a pace which brings in British imports in sufficient quantities, but this seems unlikely. So something has to happen to bridge the gap between the Bank's view that the present growth in domestic demand is unsustainable.

The uncomfortable way that this may occur is through a run of poor trade figures, producing a sharp weakening of sterling and a consequent hike in interest rates. Reading between the lines, this may be the Bank's worry, too.

Brokers agree to repay £54m

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

Three defaulting futures brokers have agreed to repay HK\$750 million (£54 million) to the Hong Kong Futures Guarantee Corporation.

Mr Gordon Macwhinnie, the chairman of the Guarantee Corporation, yesterday said that Mr Robert Ng, a director of the Sino Land property company, had agreed to act as guarantor for the money, which will be paid over the next eight years.

Announcing the agreement, Mr Macwhinnie said: "Mr Ng states that neither he nor any member of the Ng family has or had any interest in the three brokers in question."

A further HK\$250 million has still to be collected from the brokers, Mansion House, Bonser and Solid Futures.

The three were among 40 brokers who defaulted on calls for margin payments totalling HK\$1.8 billion following the October crash.

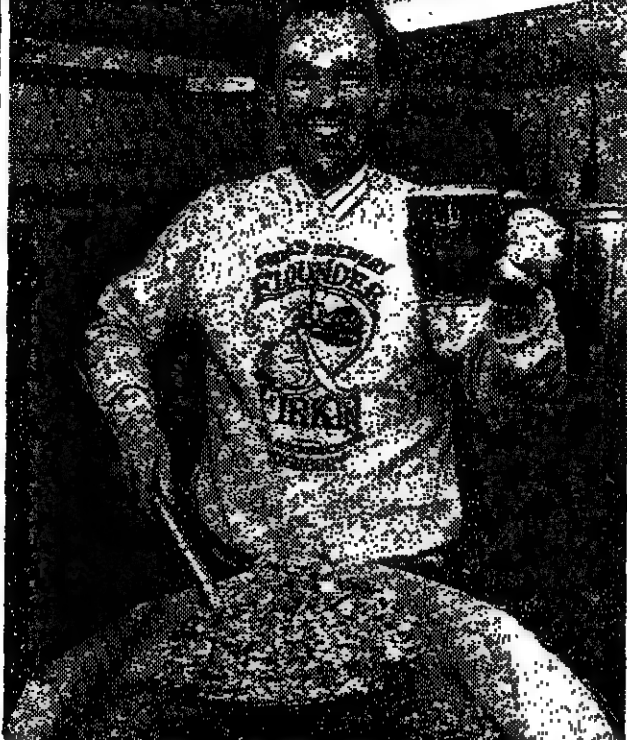
The problems in the futures exchange came to light after the Hong Kong stock market was shut down for four days.

During the closure the Government discovered that many small investors who had been speculating on Hang Seng index futures were unable to meet their payments.

Mr Macwhinnie said the deal with Mr Ng will be concluded within the next two weeks. Under the proposed agreement, the Guarantee Corporation will receive HK\$150 million in cash and the balance in instalments over a period of eight years.

Firkin pubs up for sale

By Derek Harris



New venture: Firkin boss David Bruce, with pint

Firkin pub, the London chain built up over nine years by Mr David Bruce producing mostly on-the-premises brews such as Dogbolter and Frogghopper, are up for sale, with the prospect of raising up to £8 million.

The estimate comes from Mr Barry Gillham, senior partner in Fletchers, which specializes in hotel and licensed property valuations. There are 11 pubs and a site with planning permission in the London area.

Mr Bruce had planned to float his company, Bruce's Brewery, on the Unlisted Securities Market, but the collapse of stock markets while the property market held up brought a change of plan. He and his wife, Louise, who live in Berkshire, have found themselves getting more remote from the business as it has become bigger.

The Bruses plan to take a rest, put some money into a charitable trust for handicapped children, and then try a new business.

Brewers fear 2p on a pint

By Our Industrial Editor

Britain's brewers are bracing themselves for taxation increases on beer in next month's Budget, which they fear could once more turn sales downward.

Alcohol has escaped excise duty increases for two successive years, and if the Chancellor took account of cost-of-living increases since the last duty rise it would mean another 2p on a pint of beer.

But it would come when the market was in a "vulnerable" state, according to Mr Anthony Fuller, chairman of the

Brewers' Society, who is chairman and managing director of Fuller, Smith & Turner, the London brewer.

"For beer, which has been far more severely hit by taxation since 1979 than other drinks, there was a welcome respite," Mr Fuller said. "It accounts in part for the slight improvement in our market position."

He has just led a delegation to the Chancellor to emphasize that the industry needed a further period without duty increases

Beer sales, after four years in the doldrums, last year showed some signs of an upturn, with British beer production up 0.8 per cent and the overall market, including imports, showing a rise of 0.9 per cent. Lager is continuing to increase its share of the market at more than 45 per cent. In the South-East some brewers believe it accounts for at least half the beer sales.

The other problem facing brewers is the Monopolies and Mergers Commission report on the tied-house system,

Delay feared on Japanese whisky tax

By Colin Narborough

The Government wants Japan to decouple plans to change its discriminatory tax on imported Scotch whisky from plans for an overall reform of the Japanese taxation system.

It is feared in Whitehall that linking the liquor tax move with a general tax overhaul could cause Japan delays in complying with the recent ruling by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, which requires the elimination of the controversial tax differentials on imported and

domestically-produced drinks.

The government view, which has already been conveyed to Tokyo, is in line with the stance taken by FIVS, the international trade association for the wines and spirits industry, which met in Brussels this week to discuss the issue.

The FIVS, which represents 24 countries in Europe, Australasia and the Americas, called on Tokyo to implement "in full and without delay" the Gatt ruling, underlining that

proposals for narrowing the tax differential between imported liquors and Japan's home-produced *shochu* would not fulfil the requirements of the ruling.

Under strong pressure from its main trade partners, including Britain, Japan has said it intends to change the present system of taxation affecting imported wines and spirits, of which Scotch whisky forms a large part.

But it has linked this to a general overhaul of the

nation's taxation system which will only come into effect from April next year.

The FIVS, to which the Scotch Whisky Association belongs, demanded that:

●The liquor tax structure in Japan be replaced by a single rate of tax, based on alcohol content for all spirits and liquors and on volume for wines;

●Import duties be reduced to levels equivalent to those levied by the EEC and North America.

Deafening silence at Citibank

Redundancies and the closure of branch offices are always unpleasant, both for the firm and the employee, but at Citibank, the giant American investment bank, they seem to be making a meal of it. According to staff at its two remaining regional offices - in Birmingham and Manchester - they have received no official notification of the imminent closure of either branch and yet they are all convinced that they are about to be closed down. "Nobody has told us and yet everyone seems to know," says one depressed employee. "One of my colleagues even rang Michael Page, the recruitment consultants, to look for a job and when he told them where he worked even they said they'd heard that it was being closed down." Citibank had more than half a dozen regional offices but all but three have been closed during the past two years. The third office is in Edinburgh. Compounding the fears of the employees, latest word is that a London-based executive will be arriving in the Birmingham office today to carry out an inventory of office furniture. No one at Citibank was available for comment.

●Sign of the times. A senior sales trader from a City banking firm asked a powerful fund manager what he was planning to give up for Lent. "Commission," replied the fund manager.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Poor but always honest

The painfully thin markets of the post-crash City have not been restricted to equities. Although still comparatively busy, the money market too has had its quiet moments and, to relieve their boredom, a number of money brokers have apparently been "playing" with their opposite numbers from rival firms, trading in supposedly hypothetical prices for a certain number of, say, red or yellow Smarties, or pounds of apples and pears. One player, who had bid for 24

pineapples, added spice to the jollities by demanding physical delivery within the standard two-day settlement period. Honouring that age-old City principle, "my word is my bond," the trader from City Butler - part of Mills and Allen - who had offered them for sale, had to go to Covent Garden at 5am the following day, to buy two crates of the fruit. "When they've got time on their hands they'll trade in anything," says managing director Bob McMurtrie.

Not his bid Could it be that Hanson is about to emerge in Carlo de Benedetti's bid for Société Générale de Belgique? Press releases from the Olivetti chairman's camp near Turin have been signed by one James Hansen of late. But,

somewhat disappointingly, perhaps, I discovered yesterday that he is in fact Oliver's head PR man, an American with Danish ancestry, and completed unrelated to the noble British lord. "I have never even met him," says Hansen, "although I have thought about him once or twice."



Pie-ty time The opening night on Broadway this week of Caryl Churchill's City play, *Serious Money*, was followed by a lavish party for the cast and VIP guests, hosted by Comex, the New York commodities exchange. To remind guests of the play's London origins, Comex served steak and kidney pie in the red-carpeted trading pit. The carpet is red, I'm told, to hide the bloodstains after a bad day's dealing.

Sheppard and flock

The City's most popular male pin-up is it seems, Allen Sheppard, the Grand Metropolitan chairman who has just lost Martell but made a profit of more than £30 million in the process. Clearly it is not just male fund managers who have been impressed - women have apparently been flocking into the drinks giant's shares. All in all he can now boast "three 40,000 female shareholders - making up 37 per cent of the total. What is more, they speak for 6 million more shares than the male shareholders. "We're a young, energetic and successful company," says Sheppard, aged 55 - born on Christmas day - visibly blushing. Sheppard, described as "vivacious" - he paces round the room while you talk to him, by colleagues, took over from Sir Stanley Grinstead in July and will thus come face to face with the admiring hordes for the first time at its annual meeting on March 10. For fans who want an earlier glimpse, he can regularly be found walking his four red setters near his Essex home.

●Broadgate Ice, the yuppie's ice rink, in the smart new Broadgate development on the north edge of the square mile, is the venue for a Valentine's party tonight. For £2, if you bring your own skates, or £3 if you don't, you can skim round with a free glass of punch having perfected your technique after watching a demonstration from The Royal Skating Club.

Carol Leonard

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Motoring by Clifford Webb

Heads and tails winners for BMW

In recent months BMW has boosted its already much-envied reputation as a world-beating engine designer by producing two more outstanding engines at opposite ends of its range.

The new M40 four-cylinder 1.8-litre powers the latest 318i, which at £11,575 (2-door) is only one step up the ladder from the very basic 316. Appreciably smoother, quieter and more powerful than the old M10, it could be mistaken for BMW's outstanding two-litre six.

The new five-litre V12 all-alloy weighs only 520lb, yet produces 300 bhp and pushes the "ultimate" BMW, the £33,750 750iL (long wheel-base), up to 155mph.

I was lucky enough recently to test these two models. The new 318i has gone a long way towards closing the big gap which previously existed between the six and the four.

It is nearly ten per cent more powerful than the old engine and there is much more torque at lower revs. As a result the 1988 318i responds to the throttle in fourth and fifth gears like a much bigger engine. It also runs on two-star petrol and with the help of the latest Bosch fuel injection and engine management systems will accept unleaded petrol.

The 750iL is breathtaking in its engineering concept and styling. While disagreeing with their choice I can understand why colleagues in the Guild of Motoring Writers voted it "Top Car 1988". In my view, however, value for money should play a bigger part in the choice, and at a shade under £54,000 it is a very expensive car.

You could buy a Jaguar Sovereign 4.3-litre V12 for £28,900 and still have sufficient left over to get a Jaguar



BMW 318i: 10 per cent more power on two-star petrol

XJS 3.6 coupe for your wife. Because of its five litres and twelve cylinders it is all too easy to treat it as an out and out performance car. It will move from standstill to 62mph (100kph) in 7.4 seconds and hold 140 mph plus on the autobahn all day. But that is not its primary role in

life. It is intended to be a strong competitor for the luxurious Mercedes 500 and even Rolls Royce/Bentleys.

The space age equipment includes four-speed automatic, with a choice of Sport, Economy or Manual, electrically adjusted seats front

and back, air conditioning, switchable Sport or Comfort suspension settings, ABS anti-lock brakes, Automatic Stability Control, to compensate for driver error or road conditions, anti-theft systems, alloy wheels, cruise control, electric sunroof, and an electronic accelerator pedal.

Model: BMW 318i, 2-door Price: £11,575 Engine: 1795cc, four cylinder injected Performance: 0-62 mph, 10.8 seconds, maximum speed 117 mph

Official consumption: urban 28.1 mpg, 55 mph, 57.1 mpg, and 75 mph 35.8 mpg Length: 14.2 feet Insurance: Group 7

Model: BMW 750iL Price: £53,750 Engine: 4988cc, alloy V12 Performance: 0-62 mph, 7.4 seconds, maximum speed 155 mph

Official consumption: urban 13.8 mpg, 55 mph, 31.7 mpg, and 75 mph 25.4 mpg Length: 16.5 feet Insurance: Group 9

Regrettably, the 750 is not flawless for such an expensive car. Like the six-cylinder 730i and 735i the suspension is too busy. There is discernible pitter patter on even marginally rough roads and a distinct "clunk" when one wheel hits a pot-hole.

The previous Cosworth, based on the hatchback rather than the present hooded Sapphire body, was over embellished with "go faster" paraphernalia including a huge coffee-tray rear air dam. It was noisy, bumpy, and impossible to drive in a relaxed way.

The new one is more restrained, but it is still one of the fastest production cars around. The two-litre turbo-charged engine gives it blistering acceleration - 0-60 mph in six seconds. I cannot wait to do a full road test.

Ford takes a leap ahead with Cosworth

The new Ford Sierra RS Cosworth which went on sale this week will be a formidable competitor for BMW's new S-Series. It has a five-mph lead because the new BMW will not arrive before mid-June.

So impressive is the 150bhp Ford that even on the standard evidence of one short drive I have no hesitation in declaring this the most outstanding Ford for a very long time. At £19,000 it represents exceptional value for money.

There is only one problem. The name Ford is still synonymous with mass produced, run of the mill cars. Give it BMW cachet and Ford could quadruple the five thousand it plans to produce this year and still add another £5,000 to the price.

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Vital statistics

Model: BMW 318i, 2-door Price: £11,575 Engine: 1795cc, four cylinder injected Performance: 0-62 mph, 10.8 seconds, maximum speed 117 mph

Official consumption: urban 28.1 mpg, 55 mph, 57.1 mpg, and 75 mph 35.8 mpg Length: 14.2 feet Insurance: Group 7

Model: BMW 750iL Price: £53,750 Engine: 4988cc, alloy V12 Performance: 0-62 mph, 7.4 seconds, maximum speed 155 mph

Official consumption: urban 13.8 mpg, 55 mph, 31.7 mpg, and 75 mph 25.4 mpg Length: 16.5 feet Insurance: Group 9

Regrettably, the 750 is not flawless for such an expensive car. Like the six-cylinder 730i and 735i the suspension is too busy. There is discernible pitter patter on even marginally rough roads and a distinct "clunk" when one wheel hits a pot-hole.

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Last day to win a trip to Seoul

The Times today prints the final part of its exciting competition for the sporting trip of a lifetime - a week for two at the Summer Olympic Games in Seoul in September.

Our competition is supported by Grant Thornton, the national firm of chartered accountants, which is an official sponsor of the 1988 British Olympic team.

For the winning entry there will be these luxury prizes:

Return air fares from London to Seoul.

Seven days' accommodation, with meals, at a top hotel in Seoul.

A pair of event tickets for five days at the Games, provided in conjunction with SportsWorld, the official ticket and tour agent; £400 in spending money.

Today, we print the final set of four questions, and repeat questions one to eight.

To enter, study the questions below, write your answers on the entry form. When your entry is



complete, add your name and address on the form, and send it to: Grant Thornton Olympic Competition, Sports Department, The Times, PO Box 481, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD.

1) Name the last British woman skier to win a solo Olympic gold medal.

2) Who were the riders who last won an Olympic bobsleigh title for Britain?

3) Both parents of a present English League footballer won Olympic medals. Give the family's surname.

4) The approximate cost of sending Britain's team to the Olympic Games this year is £2.5 million. What was the corresponding approximate cost in 1936?

5) Name the all-time highest-placed British woman skier in Olympic Alpine racing.

6) The same coach prepared John Curry in 1976 and Robin Cousins in 1980 to win their Olympic skating gold medals. What is his name?

7) Who was the British competitor awarded an Olympic gold medal after being disqualified in his final?

8) Who was the most recent member of the British royal family to win Olympic colours?

9) Name the coxswain who steered the British rowing eight to an Olympic silver medal in spite of one of its rowers losing his life during the race.

10) How many Olympic medals has Sebastian Coe won?

11) Name the three British swimmers to have won postwar Olympic gold medals using the same racing stroke.

12) The most successful Olympics financially were those staged in Los Angeles in 1984. What was the approximate profit?

The winner will be the sender of the first all-correct entry drawn from all those received by the closing date, Friday, February 19. Employees of Times Newspapers Ltd, Grant Thornton and SportsWorld and their relatives are not eligible for entry. No correspondence. The Sports Editor's decision is final.

NAME _____

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ANSWERS

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WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES: REDESIGNED MOUNT ALLAN COURSE OUT OF FAVOUR WITH BOYD AND MULLER BUT NOT WITH SLALOM EXPERTS

Zurbriggen takes to twisting downhill like champion-elect



Calgary (Agence) - Pirmin Zurbriggen, of Switzerland, emerged as the favourite for the downhill race here, the opening Alpine event of the Winter Olympics, by setting the fastest time of the 69 skiers out training on the redesigned 3,147-metre Nakiska course for the first time.

The World Cup champion easily mastered the steep drop and twisting turns of Mount Allan. "It's a very good course, very difficult at the top but I enjoyed it," he said.

But there were grumbles from other competitors, including Rob Boyd, Canada's favourite, who finished a disappointing 25th. The exposed top ridge was "twisty and turny, with hard snow, and it's quite rough," he said. Boyd's view was that the course designer, Bernhard Russi, the 1972 Olympic downhill champion, had revamped the top to make it more twisting, "probably because he doesn't have to run it".

Another critic was Peter Müller, world champion last year, and a teammate of Zurbriggen, who was fifth fastest. He described the top section, radically changed by shifting lorryloads of dirt and

boulders to make it steeper, twistier and more difficult, as "more like a giant slalom." He said, "Last winter, Müller won the World Cup downhill here before the first 200 yards of the course were changed."

The training times confirmed that this was a course for those who turn well as opposed to the gliders, such as Müller and Boyd, who use their strength and weight to remain for long stretches in the tuck position.

Zurbriggen's time of 2min 26.4sec was three-quarters of a second faster than another of the Swiss team, Daniel Mahrer, who clocked 2:03.39.

Calgary (Reuter) - Top Alpine skier teams have rejected Olympic village hospitality for plush hotels closer to the slopes. The "retayans" include the Swiss and their world champions, Pirmin Zurbriggen and Maria Walliser, the Italians and their slalom sensation, Alberto Tomba, the Austrians and even the host nation, Canada.

All say the three-hour round trip by road from the main Calgary Olympic Village to the ski slopes 90km away at Nakiska puts too much strain on their metal helmets in the Games' prestige sport.

"The most important thing for the athletes is not to have to

travel long distances. There would certainly be problems if we stayed in Calgary," Roland Scheffler, the Swiss coach, who has booked his team into a luxury mountain hotel, commented.

The United States is also putting preparation for victory first. Their women figure skaters, including Debi Thomas, will get to Calgary after the Games start, check in and then fly home to continue training.

● SASKATOON: Brilliant goaltending by Andy Moog, who stopped 28 shots, helped the Canadian national ice hockey team to a 3-2 victory over the Soviet Union.

Up-in-the-air favorite: Zurbriggen had the golden look in Calgary's first training run



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Exodus from village

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South Korean issues threats

COMMENTARY

David Miller
Chief Sports Correspondent

even at the mid-morning breaks during last year's Commonwealth Prime Ministers' conference in Vancouver, the order was for 46 coffees and one tea.

Mrs Thatcher is very much on her own. This intangibility, whatever its arguable economic justification in favour of black South Africans and the stability of the southern Africa region, makes British and Birmingham, the last favourite among the candidates for 1996 with Third World IOC members. The candidates are likely to include Athens, Toronto, Brisbane or Melbourne, Minneapolis-St Paul, Belgrade and Beijing.

Nevertheless, Denis Howell, who is here with a small delegation maintaining a Birmingham presence, is frustrated by the British Olympic Association's delay in nominating its candidate.

"It's like fighting any marginal seat," Howell says. "You need to work on gaining the individual vote. While Toronto can have IOC members passing through, on their way to or from Calgary, we cannot do the same with them passing through London. Time is important."

Before the decision in 1986 in Lausanne, when Barcelona was awarded the 1992 Games, Birmingham had 46 IOC members inspecting their project, but still received only eight votes.

That was a reflection of the boycott of the Commonwealth Games in Edinburgh and must seriously question the city's prospects again. But Howell says: "We do not put forward Birmingham as a candidate solely with the idea of winning in 1996, but in the concept that Birmingham is a city with a realistic long-term capability of staging the Games."

The irony is that Birmingham is heavily committed to the anti-apartheid principle and is Britain's most integrated and multi-racial city. It is further ironic that the BOA was trying to resist Birmingham's successful application last year to stage the 1991 session.

The BOA will decide its candidate for 1996 in May, the

other cities in contention being Manchester and Glasgow. Yet neither city can raise the capital investment necessary out of public funds, and would be hard pressed to do so from the private sector.

Mary Glen Haig, a member of the IOC, says: "What is needed is an initiative by the Government, to demonstrate that Britain as a nation wants the Games. That would make it easier to raise funding from major industry and commerce."

Apart from the political problem for Britain, the other handicap for any European or Far East candidate, is the United States television rights fee, which is so much larger in the western rather than eastern or southern hemisphere. Toronto, for the Summer Games, and Seoul, for the 1994 Winter Games, have a distinct financial appeal.

Because of this geographical financial imbalance, Howell wrote to Juan Antonio Samaranch before the decision on 1992, to suggest that the television rights fees should be pooled over a cycle of three Olympic Games. Samaranch's response was not received by Howell's letter of 18 months ago.

Right now it feels good.

Canada's reject makes the top grade in British colours

Back home for Lumby

From Chris Moore, Calgary

Apart from the Canadians themselves, no one will feel more at home during the Winter Olympics in Calgary than Britain's top woman downhill skier and giant-slalom champion, Wendy Lumby.

The bubbly skier, aged 21, was born and raised in the city, and for three years was a member of the Canadian national ski squad before her switch to the British team.

Her parents, who adopted her when she was three weeks old, still live in Calgary, where they emigrated from England in 1959. Her father, a professor in physical education at Calgary University, is also a member of the Olympic Games Committee.

To meet the residential qualifications needed to acquire her British passport, Lumby has spent much of the last two years living with her grandmother in Leicester. "It was the biggest decision of my life when I made up my mind to quit racing with the Canadians, but I've never regretted it," she said.

"I've achieved my ambition of competing in the Olympics, and now I want to do it. Right now it feels good."

"My dream, of course, is to win a medal in the downhill, super-G or combined. As Calgary is my home town, there's nothing else that could top that. But I would still be more than happy to get a top-10 finish. I know a lot of people who are working on and around the Olympic course so I will have them to rely on."

Her decision to turn her back on the Canadian team followed a difference of opinion with the national coach. "He just didn't figure me as a downhill skier," Lumby said. "He thought I was better suited for the giant-slalom and slalom. But when I raced in the world junior championships last year, I finished fifth in slalom, and beat all the other Canadian girls."

Increasingly frustrated at not being selected for the international team, she "sat down with Mum and Dad and we had a long talk about it. I didn't feel I was getting anywhere with the Canadian team and that's when we first started talking about switching to the British team."

"It was my decision, but they have been behind me all the way. It cost them \$15,000 to keep me on the circuit last season, and I guess about the same this season."

"The main differences for me is that I am now in a team competing against the biggies. My form is improving all the time and right now I'm really excited about going back to Calgary for the Olympics, especially as all my family will be involved. My mother is one of the starting referees for the skiing events, so I'll be seeing her every day, and both my brother and sister will be forerunners on the mountain."

Lumby: tackling the biggies

YACHTING

Collision costs Childerley

By Barry Pickthall

Stuart Childerley's chances of winning the Finn Gold Cup in Brazil this week were unfortunately wiped out when the young Olympic hopeful collided with another competitor while vying for the lead during Wednesday's penultimate race.

The mistake and resulting 720-degree penalty turn cost him 15 places, and Childerley, who has been suffering from a bout of "Rio's Revenge" all week, did not have the strength to pull himself back up the fleet. Going into the last race on Wednesday afternoon, the world championship was within the grasp of just two men, the overall leader, Thomas Smith, of West Germany, and the Dutchman, Roy Heiner.

But the final encounter was marred, like many of the other events at the Bella, by dramatic windshifts which caught out the leading contenders, including Childerley, who finished the race 36th for sixth overall.

If the winds provided Smith with an unopposed victory, they also benefited Lawrence Crispin, of Britain, who rose from ninth place to third on the last day.

RESULTS: Sixth race: 1. B. Loebner (USA); 2. S. Westergaard (Den); 3. R. Heiner (West); British positions: 20. 3. Childerley; 25. 1. Crispin. Seventh race: 1. L. Loebner (USA); 2. P. Vidy (Den); 3. C. Childerley; British: 26. Childerley; Overall: 1. T. Smith (West); 48th place; 2. Heiner; 50th; 3. Crispin; 49th; British: 16. Crispin.

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RUGBY UNION: HOLDERS EMPLOY AN INTERNATIONAL BLEND FOR FOURTH ROUND CUP MATCH

Quiet achievement for lowly Albion

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Sandwiched away near the end of the draw for the fourth round of the John Player Special Cup, most of the odds and ends had been used up by the time Plymouth Albion emerged, paired with Saracens. We recognized the two heavyweights, Leicester-Bath and Gloucester-Wasps; we enjoyed the prospect of Harlequins at Bath Hill and Worcester at Gordon Leake.

Yet down there, waving the banner for the "ground" west country (after all, Bath, Bristol and Gloucester are nearer London than they are to Plymouth), the Albion have been quietly enjoying a successful season. It has brought them 20 victories and second place in the national third division, as well as the defeat of Northampton, of the second division, in the last round of the cup.

Nor is this a flash in the pan. Plymouth feel that, with Nuneaton, they were among the leaders in forming what was, in effect, a C two years ago and it is, therefore, a matter of pride to finish as high in the league as possible, even if there is no promotion this season. They have been doing so with a team including players such as the experienced Gary Lovell, who first played for Devon in the early 1970s, and the fresh-faced Martin Livesey (a divisional replacement this season), who travels back from his teaching job in Basingstoke, to play for them.

They embrace service players, such as Bob Penfold and Mark Hewitt, both of the Royal Navy, and Chris Stocking, the Cornish farmer who, in the view of Roger Pickering, Plymouth's chairman of selectors, is as good a loose-head prop as any in the country. Since Pickering played at scrum half for England in 1967-68 and is, in addition, a realistic Yorkshireman (and contemporary at Bradford of Geoff Cooke, the present England team manager) his opinion is not to be lightly dismissed.

It is one of England's sustained problems that many good players, because they live and work at the geographical extremes, out of the orbit of the so-called first-class clubs, may be passed over for consideration at representative level. As Dudley Wood, the Rugby Football Union secretary, acknowledged only this week, for such players there is only the

Redman to bolster Bath stock

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Nigel Redman has recovered from the rib injury he sustained last round against Lichfield and will play in Bath's side against Leicester at Welford Road tomorrow in the fourth round of the John Player Special Cup (David Hands reports). He will make up an all-International second row since Bath have preferred Cronin to Morrison, the England under-23 lock.

Redman will jump at the front of the lineout with Cronin in the middle. Otherwise Bath are at full strength with the exception of their long-term casualties, Barnes and Martin.

Gloucester retain the side that lost to Bristol last weekend for their cup match against Wasps but Bristol themselves have to make two changes for the home match with Richmond Phillips, their burly prop, broke a thumb against Gloucester and will be out for six weeks while Collings, the No. 8, suffered bad contusions to the nose and may be missing for a month.

Hickey comes into the front row. Crane, joins the back row. Bristol will also be pleased to see their internationals, Webb and Harding, whose appearances since November can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Skinner, the England flanker, has recovered from a shoulder injury and will play for Harlequins at Bath Hill. But the London club must give Mullins, their prop, a fitness test

Stability at home is key for Wales

By Gerald Davies

There is an air of optimism as to what the rest of the season may hold for Wales. The victory at Twickenham last weekend marked Wales the first of all the countries so far to break the sequence of home wins in the championship. There is optimism, too, for the manner in which it was achieved.

Even at this early stage, therefore, it should put them in an advantageous position. It should do so but such advantages have been won away from home in the recent past only to be lost on their own patch in Cardiff.

Whether it be at international or club level, it is the consistency of performance at home, however, that lays the foundation for success. It is from here that confidence first grows. Because of the very clear advantage it gives, the first objective of every team should be to make certain of success in the home matches. Initially, any away win should be thought of as simply a bonus. It is no bad premise from which to start.

So, what of Wales now with such a bonus already in hand? The recent past, however, will give them no comfort. If it is only England who have not won at the Arms Park in the 1980s, the other countries have won twice each.

Up until 1982, when Scotland won a decisive victory, France were the last to win in Cardiff in

Doyle rival opts for retirement

By Peter Bryan

Hans-Henrik Oersted, the Danish professional, who took Tony Doyle's world pursuit title from him last year in Vienna, has retired at the comparatively early age of 33.

His surprise announcement makes him the third leading rider to quit the sport this week: the two others, Bernard Vallet, the Tour du monde chaser, and Francesco Moser, the world one-hour record holder at both altitude and sea level, had planned their departure months ago.

Doyle does not believe that the absence of Oersted will make his task to regain his title this year any easier. "I shall approach the world championships differently, with a new training schedule, and will go away on holiday next week without a bike for the first time in 10 years," he said.

Doyle, who ends his winter season this weekend in Dortmund with an omnium, was back in England to attend the presentation of the new Ever Ready-Amnaco Team.

The six-man squad includes three first-year professionals: Allan Miller, the New Zealand item world junior champion in 1983, and Gary Colman and Jon Walshaw, of Britain. The team is completed by Steve Joughin and Phil Bayton.

ICE HOCKEY

Wasps win on penalties

By Peter Bryan

Durham Wasps, with their third win in many years, made the Castle Eden cup their own on Wednesday, beating their local rivals, Whitley Warriors, by the cruellest means possible: on penalty shots (Norman De Mesquita writes).

The teams shared two goals in the first period, 10 in the second and six in the third. Not until the Wasps led 9-7 with five minutes to go did there come more than one goal in it, and then the Warriors scored twice in the last three minutes to send the game into a scoreless overtime.

Six players of each side then embarked on a series of penalty shots. They managed one each: Breckart for Durham and Balcock for Whitley in the first round, then Breckart scored his second,

ATHLETICS

Ailing indoor scene gets boost from Olympic champion

From Pat Butcher, Athletics Correspondent, New York

Sebastian Coe, by running 3,000 metres at the Meadows tomorrow evening, will put some much-needed life back into the United States indoor scene.

North Americans, like Australians and New Zealanders, have long been used to travelling to Europe to get their summer competition, and the money that goes with it. But, hampered by the weekend of the World American indoor promoters are finding that their own top athletes, such as Ben Johnson, Carl Lewis and Butch Reynolds, are being tempted to Europe in winter as well.

Johnson, who is reported to have earned more than \$30,000 for just over six weeks of sprinting in Madrid a fortnight ago, is scheduled to have his fourth European race this weekend, and Lewis had his only winter competition in Germany two weeks ago.

Reynolds is competing at the Meadows, which is at East Rutherford, New Jersey, across the Hudson River from New York City. But it is his only race on the Mobil indoor grand prix circuit here. He preferred to run in Glasgow last week rather than in the celebrated Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden.

According to Brad Hunt, Reynolds's new agent, it is not simply a matter of less European currency buying more dollars, although that does figure highly in his estimation, since, surprisingly, the most that anyone can command here is \$15,000 per appearance. "It's also the European tracks, which are 200 metres and have great surfaces. You can't do good times on American tracks, made of boards, which are 10 and 11 laps to the mile," Hunt said.

"That's why Butch went to Glasgow last week. He went to find out how Schönbach runs such fast times indoors. Butch did 45.20. He got disqualified for stepping on the line, but he was happy knowing he can do the same sort of time as Schönbach. The East German ran a world record of 45.04sec the night before Reynolds's Glasgow time."

Bob Hensch, the Millrose announcer and a member of the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) technical committee, expressed a general concern among officials and promoters here at what he called "the increased attention that European promoters are paying to indoor track, which used to be

an American domain. As capitalists, we have to say competition is fair, but I'm concerned as an American and lover of the sport at the potential impact in this country if European indoor track really takes off."

It certainly seems to be moving in that direction with new meetings springing up in Spain and West Germany in particular, and Glasgow's new Kelvin Hall arena would attract sell-out crowds.

Which all suggests that a European indoor grand prix, on the lines of the outdoor one, cannot be too far away. John Holt, the general secretary of the IAAF, said yesterday: "The marketing and competition working group have this on their agendas every year, and although there are no steps to bring the meetings together, we have asked for a report."

Linford Christie could meet Ben Johnson over 60 metres in an invitation meeting at Ghent, Belgium, next Wednesday. Johnson will run if he has recovered from injury.

BRITISH SQUADS: 100m: Steve Crompton, 1. Chris Brown, 2. David Smith, 3. Ray A. Brown, 4. Peter Smith, 5. John Brown, 6. David Smith, 7. Ray A. Brown, 8. Peter Smith, 9. John Brown, 10. David Smith, 11. Ray A. Brown, 12. Peter Smith, 13. John Brown, 14. David Smith, 15. Ray A. Brown, 16. Peter Smith, 17. John Brown, 18. David Smith, 19. Ray A. Brown, 20. Peter Smith, 21. John Brown, 22. David Smith, 23. Ray A. Brown, 24. Peter Smith, 25. John Brown, 26. David Smith, 27. Ray A. Brown, 28. Peter Smith, 29. John Brown, 30. David Smith, 31. Ray A. Brown, 32. Peter Smith, 33. John Brown, 34. David Smith, 35. Ray A. Brown, 36. Peter Smith, 37. John Brown, 38. David Smith, 39. Ray A. Brown, 40. Peter Smith, 41. John Brown, 42. David Smith, 43. Ray A. Brown, 44. Peter Smith, 45. John Brown, 46. David Smith, 47. Ray A. Brown, 48. Peter Smith, 49. John Brown, 50. David Smith, 51. Ray A. Brown, 52. Peter Smith, 53. John Brown, 54. David Smith, 55. Ray A. Brown, 56. Peter Smith, 57. 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Clough is denied by Forest board

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Brian Clough was last night considering his future at Nottingham Forest. He was stunned and incensed to learn that the club's board of directors had surprisingly changed its mind and refused him permission to become the manager of Wales on a part-time basis.

The meeting at the City Ground yesterday morning had been considered little more than a formality. Clough's request to step into the international arena had already been granted, albeit reluctantly, by Maurice Roworth, the chairman. His colleagues were expected to give their approval.

Yet, after three hours of consideration, Roworth announced that the board felt that Clough would be unable to commit himself fully to both his club and his adopted country. The board had agreed unanimously that "managing Nottingham Forest is a full-time job".

Clough has been at the City Ground for 13 years, a record of longevity surpassed only by John Lyall of West Ham United. Significantly, Doug Sharpe, a member of the Welsh negotiating committee, says that if Clough "wanted to become the full-time manager of Wales, we would consider it".

Alan Evans, the secretary of the Welsh FA, contradicted the view of his colleague, by



Roworth: implications

outcome of the meeting to his own notable failures in the transfer market. "This is as bad a decision as when I sanctioned the signings of Fashanu, Wallace and Ward, wasting £3 million of the company's money and nearly

sending the club to the wall," he said.

Clough, accustomed to having his own way, was so sure that he was on the verge of realizing one of his remaining ambitions that he readily published his thoughts yesterday in a local newspaper. To his embarrassment, they appeared in the Nottingham Evening Post.

In his column, he confirmed that he would have no hesitation in signing a new contract at Forest in four months. Previously, he had threatened that, if the board barred his path to the Welsh seat of power, he might retaliate by leaving the club he joined in 1975.

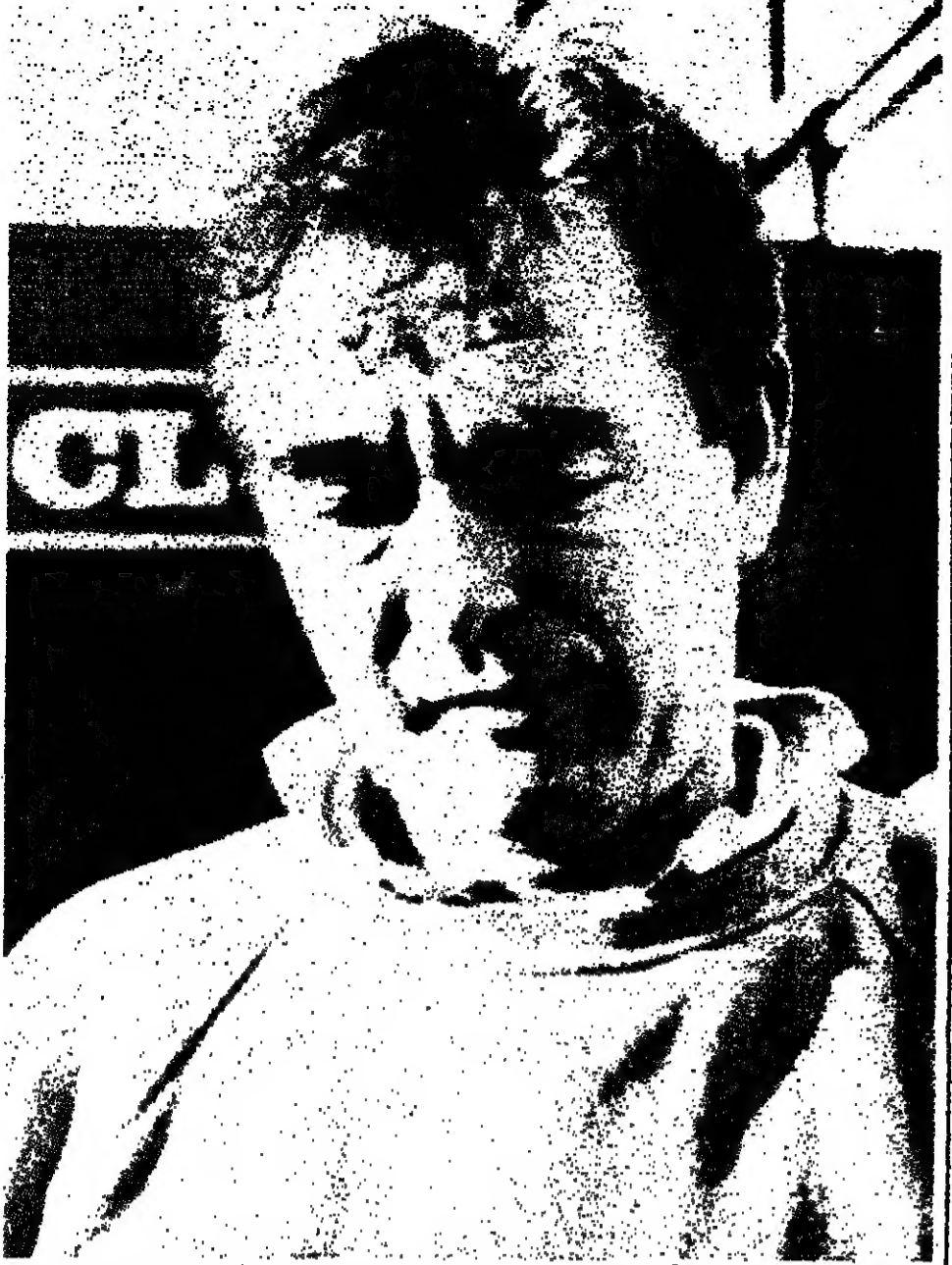
He also responded to the critics who had expressed doubts about his ability to fill both roles. Among those who had voiced such opinions were Bobby Robson and Billy Bingham, the respective managers of England and Northern Ireland, who would have become the closest of rivals.

It is believed that Forest's directors may have been influenced by the public statements of Robson and Bingham. There were echoes of their sentiments in Roworth's comments. "The board is aware that the time the manager dedicates to the club is total," he said.

"They felt that any further involvement could be only detrimental to the club as well as to Brian himself. They are mindful of the honour of managing a national side but, knowing him as they do, they felt he would throw himself completely into the challenge.

"In his case, it would have meant doing everything humanly possible to make sure that Wales qualify for the next World Cup finals which would have entailed additional hours of working. They do care very much about his welfare. Every member of the board analysed all the relevant implications."

The one they fear is that Clough will now carry out his threat. Having led Forest to the first division, to their only championship, to two European Cups and to two League Cups, Clough, aged 52, may choose to walk away from the men who have been brave enough to stand in his way.



Caught in a trap: a grim-faced Clough leaving the Nottingham Forest ground yesterday

England pick Jarvis to complete his recovery

From Alan Lee, Cricket Correspondent, Christchurch

Paul Jarvis spent much of the Christmas holiday in a hospital bed, anxious for the future and weak from the treatment of a condition which had left him with no feeling in the fingers of his bowling hand.

Yet only six weeks on, this young Yorkshireman was today making his first Test match appearance for England against New Zealand in Christchurch, his worst fears dispersed.

It used to be said that England's cricket could not aspire to strength unless they had an opening batsman and a fast bowler from Yorkshire. They have both now, but neither Jarvis nor his county colleague, Moxon, has enjoyed an easy passage to the top. Even yesterday, his place was threatened by Radford striking him painfully on the point of the left shoulder while he batted in the nets. After treatment, however, Moxon reported fit for duty to give not only England but Yorkshire cricket a further shot in the arm.

Sadly nothing went right for Jarvis during the first part of the winter. He injured his right shoulder during the World Cup and needed a course of injections. Then came the loss of feeling in his right hand. Whatever the cause, the numbness was sufficiently serious for him to be sent back to England in search of treatment, during the calamitous Faisalabad Test Match.

"I was encouraged to know that I was not the first cricketer to suffer from the condition," he recalled. "Simon Dennis, who also plays for Yorkshire, had it so badly that it affected both his hands and his feet, and he has fully recovered. I spent 11 nights in hospital. For eight hours each day, I had an intravenous drip in my arm, providing the relevant drugs. It made me feel lousy but selection for this game has made it all worthwhile."

Ever since he became the youngest man ever to play for Yorkshire, in 1981, there have been those in his county who have insisted that this North Riding boy is an England quick bowler of the future. Jarvis himself admits there was a time, when he might easily have sent his career hurtling off the rails. He was

growing dangerously interested in the temptations available to a young professional sportsman and his bowling was suffering. Two colleagues, Geoff Boycott and the current captain, Phil Carrik, came to his rescue.

"Both of them helped with my attitude. Phil is still there to encourage me but, in his last two years at the club, Geoff was very good. He told me that if I wanted to make the grade I should get to bed at night, eat the right sort of food and not drink so much beer. It was good advice and I appreciate it even more now."

Jarvis the bowler is largely self-taught. His stepfather still bowls left-arm spin at club level and is his most constructive critic, but he can name no one fast bowler who has unduly influenced him. It is both the discipline and the accuracy of Jarvis's bowling which has won him his chance. He has shown the ability to bowl, without fuss and without machismo flourish, whenever given the ball. Big occasions seem not to trouble him. The faith of men such as Boycott is close to justification.

Home pitch will suit Hadlee

England have enjoyed five crushing victories against New Zealand at Lancaster Park, Christchurch, where the first Test match starts today, but none can overshadow the humiliating defeat in only 11 hours 41 minutes, suffered when they last played there four years ago (Simon Wilde writes).

The conditions — usually of help to fast-medium bowlers — encouraged England to go into the match without a spinner, for only the third time in their history, but on a

pitch ideal for seamers this was not the cause of their innings defeat.

That was due to inept bowling (Willis, the England captain, described it as the time as the worst performance he had seen in his 85 Tests), which allowed New Zealand to score 307, England mustered only 82 and 93. In that match Richard Hadlee scored 99 and took eight for 44, thirty-seven years earlier, his father, Walter, had scored New Zealand's first century on the ground against

England.

In recent days Christchurch has been overcast and the pitch is reckoned to resemble a typically green one at Trent Bridge — which will suit Hadlee even more than it will England.

England's openers have a poor record at Christchurch — only three half-century stands in 11 Tests, while two batsmen, Sutcliffe for England and Morrison for New Zealand, have suffered the rare indignity of being dismissed with the first ball of the match.

END COLUMN

Schools have grounds for gripe

By John Goodbody

The Inner London Education Authority (ILEA), which goes out of existence in 1990 and is desperately seeking cuts in expenditure, is now negotiating to sell one of the most lavish, publicly owned playing-fields in the capital to Tottenham Hotspur as a training ground.

Schoolmasters are worried that community use of Waltham Lodge, a 35-acre site in Walthamstow, will be drastically curtailed, although the League club says it plans to allow schools to use the facilities if it acquires the ground.

Waltham Lodge, which has five superb cricket squares, four hockey and seven football pitches, cricket nets and two pavilions, is one of the 10 satellite playing-fields round London bought by ILEA in the 1950s. But these have been underused since the Authority cut back on buying pupils out of the capital, because of costs and inefficiency, and also because of the swing away from team games in school curriculum time.

As *The Times* revealed last week, Priest Hill, a 50-acre site in Ewell, formerly owned by ILEA and now belonging to the London Residential Body, has been unused since 1962 and is up for sale.

Nigel Hook, senior technical officer with the Central Council of Physical Recreation, said yesterday: "It is a crazy situation that, with a desperate shortage of facilities, playing-fields are now being lost. Waltham is a prime site for children and it is absolutely essential that there are safeguards for the future."

Dave Williams, a physical education teacher at Hamerton House School, Hackney, who uses the centre, is organizing a petition protesting at its sale.

ILEA is close to completing a deal

"These are excellent facilities, particularly for cricket, which are not obtainable at Hackney Marshes, which are slightly closer to the school," he said. "There has been a shift in attitudes on encouraging team games since the McIntosh report last month but at the moment it is too early to see its results."

Jack Price, a PE master at Highbury Grove and former Tottenham player, said: "I do respect Spurs and know Haringey Schools use its indoor area at White Hart Lane. But the club is a business and I wonder how much money will be charged to use the training ground. I feel very sad about the whole thing."

A spokesman for ILEA pointed out that, apart from local clubs, only three secondary schools use the facilities and many others have opted to use grounds closer to their premises.

He said ILEA was not close to completing a deal but added, "If we can encourage close co-operation between the club and talented youngsters that would open up rather than diminish sporting opportunities. On the one hand ILEA seems to be criticized for overspending, and on the other, it is also criticized for reviewing expenditure."

Peter Barnes, the Tottenham Hotspur secretary, said that until the club had completed a deal it was impossible to talk about details of its use by the community. "But Waltham Lodge does offer a far larger site than we have here and would allow us to offer facilities to the community and schools. It is something in which the club is particularly interested."

Brown in line for Welsh job

By Clive White

Once they have recovered from the shock and disappointment of being denied the immediate services of Brian Clough, the Football Association of Wales may turn their attention to another Englishman. In the event of their failing to lure Clough, Ken Brown, the former Norwich City manager, is expected to be offered the opportunity to manage the national side.

There should be no problems of availability with Brown, who since his surprise dismissal by the East Anglian club last November has been

largely unemployed. "I'm delighted to be even mentioned. It's an honour," Brown said. "I've no commitments and I'd love to be considered."

The FAW sub-committee, which was tasked to negotiate the hiring of Clough from Nottingham Forest, will reconvene next week to discuss a new successor to Mike England. Should it decide to go for the second choice, Brown will become only the second Englishman to guide Welsh fortunes.

While the players would naturally prefer to work with a fellow-Welshman, they could

not find a more popular leader than Brown, who is still sadly missed by the vast majority by Norwich supporters.

The FAW, with just £45,000 left in the kitty, was convinced that Clough was the man to lead them out of its poverty to a lucrative place in the 1990 World Cup Finals in Italy after four narrow failures to qualify for major finals. It was felt that the mere presence of Clough, albeit for only 30-odd days over the next 18 months, would have been enough to rekindle interest in the national team.

League assumes a defensive stance

By Stuart Jones

The Football League is to take "extreme" precautions to protect the event which is supposed to save the centenary party from collapsing into a total shambles. The Festival of Football at Wembley on April 16 and 17 will be an elite tournament for clubs and spectators alike.

So severe are the restrictions which will be imposed on the distribution of tickets that the weekend's activities could be staged in front of a ghostly audience. The one remaining highlight of the season's celebrations will not even be covered live on television.

Since the event takes place a fortnight before UEFA is to decide whether to reopen England's door to Europe, the

League intends to close Wembley's entrances to all potential hooligans. Only a few of the most committed supporters of each club will be allowed inside.

Andy Williamson, the League's press officer, admitted yesterday that "if there is any trouble, we will have failed in a marketing exercise which this event has provided for us. We are looking for a showpiece and that is why we have taken fairly extreme precautions."

Tickets will be available only to applicants who belong to an "identifiable group", such as the holders of a membership card or of a season ticket. Even they will not be guaranteed a place. The audience is to be limited to 80,000.

The 16 competing clubs will be supported, therefore, by no more than 5,000 of their own followers. Williamson acknowledges that "the profile of the crowd, which will include 10,000 spectators in a family enclosure, will contrast significantly with that of a regular game."

He estimates that "there will be only 20,000 spectators inside Wembley at any given moment on the Saturday". In spite of "a major marketing exercise on schools" for the Sunday, the final stages of the competition are also likely to be staged in an arena that appears to be almost empty.

Clubs will not be held responsible for disturbances as long as they can prove that they "took all reasonable precautions". Williamson

added: "We are promoting it, Wembley is providing the venue and the local police will be in charge of security."

It is believed that some qualifiers, fearing that they would be penalized should there be any trouble, were considering withdrawing from the competition. Half of the field, which is judged on the number of League points that have been accumulated since November 1, is now known.

Liverpool, Luton Town, Manchester United, Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon will represent the first division. Aston Villa, Blackburn Rovers and Leeds United are also through. They will be joined by three clubs from the first, one from the second division and two from each of the third and fourth.

Machin incurs fine

Mel Machin, the Manchester City manager, was yesterday fined £500 by a Football Association disciplinary committee after being found guilty of bringing the game into disrepute (Ian Ross writes).

Machin, who was fined £250 for a similar offence earlier in the season, was also ordered to give a written undertaking about his future conduct and warned that any further indiscretions could lead to him being banished from the touchline.

The incident in question happened during an FA Cup third round tie against Huddersfield Town at Leeds Road on January 9 when

Machin was alleged to have made abusive comments to a linesman.

FIFA, football's governing body, is being asked to rule whether Craig Johnston, of Liverpool, can play for Australia in the Bicentennial Gold Cup in July.

Arsenal's Littlewoods Cup semi-final, second leg, against Everton at Highbury will take place on February 24 — four days before Luton and Oxford meet in their second leg at Kenilworth Road.

SEVERAL VAN TROPHY: Semi-final draw: Northern section: Burnley v Darlington or Halifax; Huddersfield v Preston or Mansfield; Southern section: Brighton v Notts County; Wolves v Aldershot or Torquay.

SPORT IN BRIEF

RAC drops Chester

The RAC, the governing body of motor sport in Great Britain, has severed links with Chester in a dispute over a debt of £26,000.

The city staged last year's Lombard RAC Rally and was set to stage this year's Norwich Union RAC Classic — an event designed for 750 classic cars built between 1905 and 1968 — but the refusal to honour a debt for Chester's liquidated marketing bureau has led the RAC to open its offers to other cities.

Longo anger

Grenoble (AFP) — Jeannie Longo, the French world champion, is ready to take the International Cycling Union (UCI) to court after its decision to strip her of five world track records for doping when setting the 3,000 metre record at Colorado Springs in October, although she was negatively tested when setting the previous four.



Scott: grand slam member

Off waiting list

The postponed Hospitals Cup match between Guy's and St Mary's, the holders, has been rearranged for Wednesday at Honor Oak Park.

Cash protest

Aberdeen (AFP) — Pat Cash, of Australia, and Kevin Curren, of the United States, will face an anti-apartheid protest at their tennis challenge match here tomorrow because of the pair's South African links.

Aouita scare

Rabat (Reuters) — Said Aouita, of Morocco, the world record-holder for the 1,500 and 5,000 metres, broke a toe in training yesterday and will be out for six weeks, missing an indoor athletics meeting at Zaragoza on February 24 to 26, but he expects to be fit for Seoul.

Negative reply

NG Hemel-Watford Royals, one of the running for honours in the Carlsberg basketball league, suffered a further setback yesterday when Kodak withdrew from long-term sponsorship talks with the club.

Scott retires

John Scott, Cardiff's former England No. 8 and the last playing member of the 1980 English grand slam pack, is retiring. His recent acquisition of a sports fitness centre in Cardiff restricts his time for the commitment needed for senior Rugby Union.

Princess finds detractors

From David Miller, Calgary

It is typical of the self-destructive internal fighting within British sports administration that even the election of the Princess Royal to the International Olympic Committee (IOC), which was unanimously accepted by the members at yesterday's session here, has found its detractors.

The Princess Royal, who is already president of both the International Equestrian Federation and the British Olympic Association (BOA), replaces Lord Luke, 83 this year, who resigned on Wednesday.

The objection against the Princess Royal, who became the second British woman member with Mary Glen Haig, is that as a member of the Royal Family she will be constitutionally inhibited from taking part in controversial issues in which the IOC's policy is opposed by Westminster.

This argument is tenuous. In any such political conflict

of policy, the Princess Royal is already in a potentially far more provocative position as president of the BOA, for which she must be, and willingly and consistently is, the leading voice.

As a member of the IOC she is an independent representative of that organization to the British, and not the other way round. She is under no obligation to take a public stance as an IOC member in the way she would be as president of the BOA. The Princess Royal will have clearly weighed these facts before giving her agreement to Lord Luke and Mrs Glen Haig that she would accept IOC membership if invited.

Were the BOA or the Equestrian Federation to be confronted by a similar choice as in 1980, when several Western governments wished to boycott the Moscow Games, the Princess Royal would have to absent herself from the chair and the debate, as the Duke of

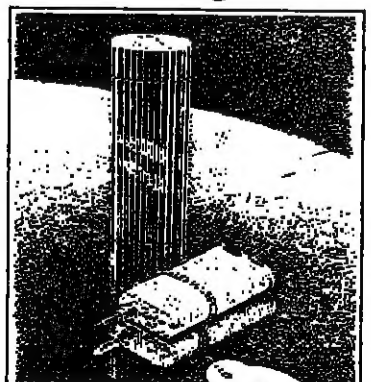
Edinburgh was obliged to do as equestrian president on that occasion.

The Princess Royal is welcomed on her election by the majority of those in British sport, as well as by the IOC. She is there not as a figurehead, but in her own right as a former competitor and as an administrator with positive views and an alert sense of responsibility towards contemporary competitors.

Some of the controversy over the Princess Royal's nomination by Lord Luke arises because of alleged lack of consultation with BOA members. This was not obligatory, and it is an indication of the division of interests and personalities within the BOA that Charles Palmer, the chairman, was not a party to the discussion, and only learned of the Princess Royal's nomination after it had happened yesterday.

Other Games news, page 32

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